Hambali confirms al-Qaida funding MILF fighters

Story on PAGE A5

Now, it's Ms Condom

BANGKOK—Twenty contestants from four different nations, including the Philippines, blew up condoms and paraded for a different kind of honor—the title of "Miss Condom Asia-Pacific."

Among the con-

NOW/ A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Lacson moves to block arrest warrants NEWS/A2
- Palestinian PM tenders resignation WORLD/A8
- Stocks end at 16-mo. high BUSINESS /B1

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Saturday, October 11, 2003 ★★ 74 pages / 9 sections / vol. 18 / no. 305 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

RP open target but we're ready–GMA

Metro execs, cops meet to harden security

By TJ Burgonio, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Gerald G. Lacuarta

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said the Philippines is capable of preventing terrorist attacks by the al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah terror network or any other group after Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill warned that the country faced the "greatest threat" of a terrorist attack in the region.

"The Philippines is an open target. But we would like to assure everyone that we are ready to thwart any plan of JI or any other terrorist group," Ms Macapagal said in a statement.

"Potential targets have already been secured and hardened and we will continuously keep up with emerging intelligence assessments," the President said.

Hill's remarks came while security forces have been placed on high alert for the visit here of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18.

Military and police sources said the fear of an attack by the JI has prompted one of the heaviest security blankets ever to cover Manila. The Philippines is a top US ally in the global antiterror campaign.

Metro Manila mayors and police officials met yesterday to intensify security measures amid threats by militants to stage mass actions during the visit.

The mayors said the arrangements included intelligence-gathering and monitoring right down to the barangay level

Security officials pounced on

RP OPEN/ A18

EDWIN BACASMAS

JOAN BONDOC

A TORRENT of renovations is upon Malacañang for the Bush visit including this marble fountain (above).

NO, they're not tourists (at right) in a fun House (of Representatives).

EYESORES (left) like the squatter shanties in front of the Batasang Pambansa are demolished.

JOAN BONDOC

Reporma aligns with Tito: Is this '3rd force'?

By Martin P. Marfil

A WEEK after President Macapagal-Arroyo announced her decision to seek a full term in 2004, the tiny Reporma political party yesterday bolted the pro-administration People Power Coalition, saying it was aligning itself with the causes championed by maverick Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas, Reporma's secretary general, made the announcement at a press conference called by Guingona, fueling speculations that the breakaway may be the beginning of the "third force" that Guingona alluded to when he himself bolted the ruling Lakas-CMD last week.

Mandanas admitted as much in a phone interview after the press conference at the Philippine International Convention Center yesterday.

"[It is a third force] if being a third force means restating our commitment to good governance, not politicking like what President Macapagal-Arroyo did when she announced that she was running for president. We are picking up what she dropped," he said.

But Danny Venida, Guingona's spokesperson, said that while a third force was indeed being talked about "by others," Guingona himself only wanted to focus on the advocacies enumerated in his letter of resignation as Lakas president.

REPORMA/ A6

Muslim rights lawyer wins Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO—An Iranian human rights and democracy activist who represented "reformed Islam" won the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize, in an award aimed at inspiring democratic reform across the Muslim world.

Feminist lawyer Shirin Ebadi became the first Muslim woman and only the 11th woman to win the honor in the Nobel Prize's 102-year history.

Ebadi, 56, was recognized "for her efforts for democracy and human rights," particularly for women and children in her country which has been under Islamic rule since its 1979 revolution, the Nobel Committee said.

"I'm very glad and proud," she told Norway's NRK public television by phone from Paris.

"I'm a Muslim, so you can be a Muslim and support democracy," she said. "It's very good for human rights in Iran, especially for children's rights in Iran. I hope I can be useful."

Ebadi won over a record field of 165 candidates. Speculation this year had centered on Pope John Paul II and former Czech president Vaclav Havel. Internet

MUSLIM/ A11

US Secret Service combs Batasan area

By Carlito Pablo, Cynthia D. Balana and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THEY were not, and did not look like, tourists.

These 40-50 men and women from the White House, US Secret Service and US Embassy in Manila had a singular purpose: To clear the way for the most powerful man in the world.

The team yesterday inspected the Batasang Pambansa Complex in Quezon City as part of preparations for US President George W. Bush's 8-hour visit to Manila on Oct. 18.

Only four reporters—representing the INQUIRER, PTV-4 and radio stations dzBB and dzME—were in the House of Representatives when the Americans arrived at about 10 a.m.

Crouching at the stairs of the North Lounge, the reporters managed to sneak a view of how some of the Americans checked out the layout of the building where Bush is to address a joint session of the Philippine Congress. They saw some of the agents peering at the nooks and crannies while the others conferred with their

US SECRET/ A18

Recto: It was just a fishing trip

By Christine O. Avendaño and Cynthia Balana

IT WAS just a fishing trip, and nothing more.

Sen. Ralph Recto yesterday took strong exception to an INQUIRER report alleging he took a cruise with a woman, believed to be a guest relations officer from a popular Quezon City night spot, aboard his yacht in Batangas last weekend.

"For the record, I have no mistress . . . I don't own a yacht and I don't go to Pegasus and nightclubs," the senator and husband of actress-turned-Lipa Mayor Vilma Santos told the INQUIRER.

The INQUIRER story the other day was based mainly on eyewitness accounts.

In a phone interview, Recto confirmed that he went on a "fishing trip" and went sightsee-

RECTO/ A18

Estrada ally linked to coup freed on bail

By Margaux Ortiz and Philip C. Tubeza

THE ESTRADA OFFICIAL charged with the crime of coup d'état in connection with the July 27 mutiny of the Magdalo group was released at 6:30 last night by order of a Makati City judge.

Ramon "Eki" Cardenas, senior deputy executive secretary during President Joseph Estrada's administration, was released from Camp Crame after his lawyer Rene Saguisag posted bail of P350,000. But Judge Oscar Pimentel of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 said Cardenas could not leave the Philippines without the permission of the court and the prosecution.

In his order, Pimentel said the penalty of life imprisonment for coup d'état would apply only if the accused led, commanded, directed and spoke for his subordinates, or signed receipts and other documents issued in their name.

He said such circumstances were not manifested in the evidence presented by the prosecution.

ESTRADA/ A6

Pangilinan: After Danding, is deal with Erap next?

By Christine O. Avendaño, Volt Contreras and Cynthia Balana

AFTER Danding, could a deal with Erap be far behind?

An administration senator otherwise noted for his staunch support of Malacañang raised the awkward question yesterday, two days after the Sandiganbayan announced the lifting of the sequestration of a block of shares in San Miguel Corp.

In a statement, Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the Sandigan ruling was a "serious cause for concern"—if reports are true that Malacañang has cut a deal with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, CEO of the sequestered food and beverage giant.

Maverick senators Joker Arroyo and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. had immediately branded the ruling suspect, as possibly signaling a sweetheart deal between the President and Cojuangco, the founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition and a prospective presidential candidate.

Yesterday, an angry President declared: "We do not cut deals with the courts."

But on the same day, Pangilinan asked: "If [the Danding deal is] true, the next question is whether or not other deals are also being hatched?"

"I hope I am mistaken but if true then after Danding's case, is Erap's plunder case next?" he asked. He was referring to the historic plunder trial involving

PANGILINAN/ A18

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Second FRONTPAGE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao including Palawan will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/10/11/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Lacson et al. move to block warrants

By Tina Santos and Christine O. Avendaño

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo Lacson and two of his co-accused in the 1995 Kuratong Baleleng rubout case yesterday asked a regional trial court to hold in abeyance the issuance of warrants of arrest against them.

In a motion filed before the sala of Judge Maria Theresa Yadao of Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 81, Lacson, former PNP director Romeo Acop and Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia asked the court to determine the existence of probable cause as basis for issuing the warrants of arrest.

Former Solicitor General Francisco Chavez, representing Acop and Zubia, who are among Lacson's co-accused, said there was no case against his clients because the prosecution allegedly presented no new evidence after the case was dismissed in 1999.

Chavez said the four "new" witnesses for the prosecution—Ysmael Yu, Mario Enad, Abelardo Ramos and Wilmor Medes—had committed perjury based on their previous sworn statements.

Lacson's counsel noted that the reopening of the murder case—which was dismissed by Judge Wenceslao Agnir Jr., then QC RTC Branch 81 presiding judge, on March 29, 1999 but which was revised more than two years later—was a violation of Section 8, Rule 117 of the Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure.

The defense stressed that probable cause did not exist in the case that resulted in its dismissal by Judge Agnir.

Lacson also stated that the affidavits of Ramos and Yu were not uncorroborated narrations because they did not charge, accuse or indict any of the accused for any crime.

Lacson also asked the court to immediately dismiss the case after the court determines that the probable cause against him and all the accused did not exist.

According to Lacson, Malacanang is "hell-bent" on putting him in jail before the Oct. 18 state visit of US President George Bush.

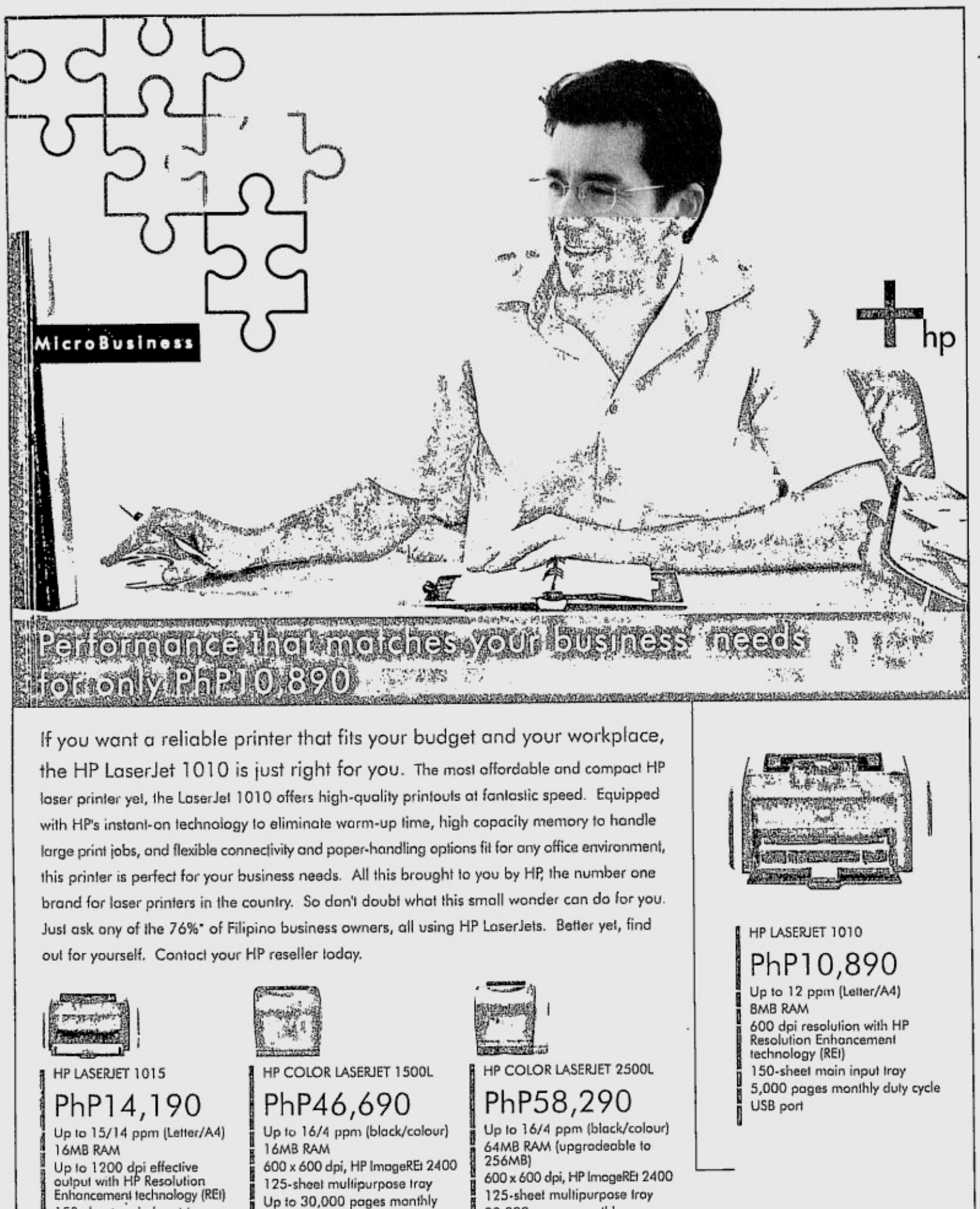
"Malacañang and the allies of Jose Pidal are determined to put me behind bars without a chance of posting bail," the senator said in a statement. "They've consorted with their lackeys in the Supreme Court to immobilize me and now, they are using arm-twisting tactics to pressure the QC RTC."

The senator said this was all part of the operational plan of Task Force 71, a multi-agency task force created by the Palace in anticipation of the revival of the rubout case against him.

As this developed, a community-based group supporting Lacson yesterday started a noise barrage against corruption in government and the administration's alleged campaign to stop Lacson from pursuing his Jose Pidal expose.

The Citizens Movement for Order (Order, Responsive Governance, Democratization, Economic Growth and Rule of Law), called on the public to conduct a daily noise barrage in front of Malacañang and the Supreme Court.

Alain Pascua, convenor of the citizens' movement, said the group is calling on motorists to honk their horns during the morning rush hours whenever they pass in front of Malcañang or the Supreme Court. *With reports from Norman Bordadora and Alcuin Papa*



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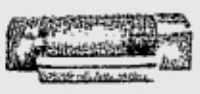

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Arrest Ping now, gov't prosecutors press QC court

By Philip C. Tubeza

THERE should not be any more delays in the issuance of an arrest warrant against opposition Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said.

"By the standards of probable cause, we have a good case and a warrant of arrest should be issued," Zuño said, adding that he expects the warrant to be issued on Wednesday at the latest.

Zuño noted that under normal procedures, it takes a judge in a heinous crime case only one or two days to issue an arrest warrant.

Zuño made the statement after he said that he heard rumors that it might take long for the QC court to issue an arrest warrant against Lacson for the Kuratong Baleleng rubout case.

The Supreme Court ruled with finality last week to revive the Kuratong Baleleng summary execution case in which Lacson is a prime suspect. The case was raffled last Thursday and landed in the sala of Judge Theresa Yadao of Branch 81 who handled the case in 1999.

Private prosecutors, however, have questioned the manner in which the raffle was conducted resulting in Yadao getting the case.

"I think (the case) is starting on the wrong foot," said lawyer Arno Sanidad.

Zuño and the other government prosecutors met yesterday to discuss what to do about the raffle. He said they could decide on Monday on what action to take.

The Kuratong case was among the four heinous crime cases scheduled to be raffled off between Branches 76 and 81, the two Quezon City special courts.

Which case goes to what court was determined by spinning a wheel marked with different court branch numbers.

Lacson's case was the fourth or last on the list.

Sanidad said the wheel was spun only once, which he said was "a clear transgression" of the SC ruling.

The Quezon City Regional Trial Court, however, has insisted that it followed the correct procedure.

Malacañang, meanwhile, has asked the justice department to explore "all angles" in hastening the resolution of the Kuratong Baleleng case involving Lacson and 33 other police officers.

But presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye was unsure whether one of the options was for the DOJ to appeal that the court raffle off the case again.

Bunye said the President gave no immediate reaction on the return of the case to Yadao.

"The President has maintained her stance in this judicial proceeding in accordance with the procedures laid down by the law," Bunye said.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. yesterday said his department was capable of carrying out the arrest of opposition Senators Gregorio Honasan and Lacson even if authorities are busy with security preparations for the visit of United States President George W. Bush.

"But we cannot act in the absence of any warrant," Lina said.

Honasan is facing coup charges for his reported involvement in the July 27 failed coup.

An administration congressman, meanwhile, said the reported threat to the life of Lacson was just a figment of his imagination and was being used by his allies to condition the mind of the people that President Macapagal-Arroyo was out to kill him. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan, Nelson Flores and Cynthia D. Balana*

Absence of duty officer abetted Abu escape try

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE DUTY officer was out and only three junior officers were left to watch over eight of the Philippine National Police's most dangerous inmates.

This appeared to have been the scenario at the PNP Office of Businessmen's Concerns (OBC) building in Camp Crame when suspected Abu Sayyaf member Buyungan Bungkak killed three policemen and wounded three others in an alleged bid to escape last Tuesday, a source in the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) said yesterday.

What was worse, another ranking CIDG official said, the policemen assigned to the OBC building had been too lax with security to the point of utilizing Bungkak as an "errand boy." He did not elaborate.

The source said the absence of the duty officer made it easier for Bungkak, 20, to attempt to escape and engage several members of the PNP's elite units in a three-hour standoff.

"Had the duty officer been there," the source told the INQUIRER," the three guards at the OBC building at that time would have had greater resolve to subdue the inmate."

It was not clear where the duty officer went when Bungkak seized the M-16 rifle of PO2 Frumencio Lafuente and shot the officer at around 6 a.m.

PO2 Arvin Garces and PO2 Alastair Garcia were killed while trying to subdue Bungkak, one of the five suspects in the Zamboanga City bombings last October.

The CIDG source predicted that more officials may be sacked once the PNP has completed its investigation of the incident.

CIDG chief Eduardo Matillano went on leave a few hours after the shooting while Senior Supt. Rosueto Ricaforte, the OBC chief, was relieved of his post.

The Inquirer yesterday learned that Matillano did not volunteer to go on leave as announced by the PNP but was asked to do so by no less than PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. himself.

Matillano is set to return to his post next week when the PNP investigation shall have been completed.

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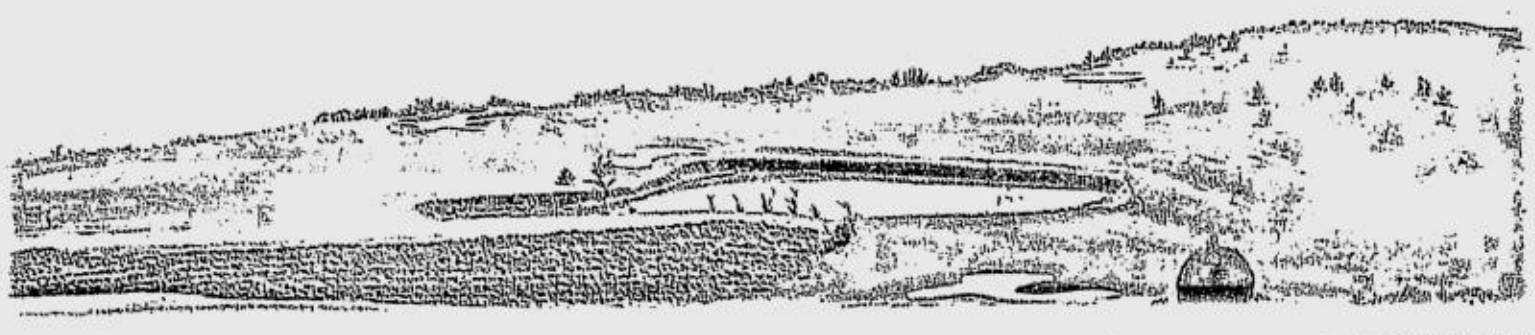

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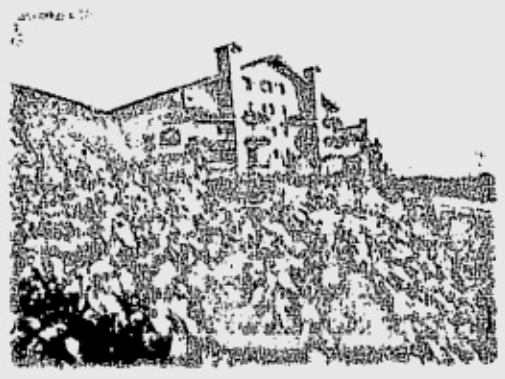

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Question of how, when to change Charter hangs

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

ALTHOUGH she has come out in favor of a parliamentary form of government, President Macapagal-Arroyo has left dangling the method or time she wants the new system to be in place.

This has raised the question of whether she would agree to a shortened three-year term in case she wins to allow for the parliamentary system to be in place by 2007, or if she would insist on serving a full six-year term before the shift takes place in 2010.

The question arose after the President, who declared her candidacy in Pampanga on Oct. 5, became the poster girl for Charter change when she endorsed the parliamentary form of government as the key to solving the country's ills.

A Palace official privy to talks on Charter change is convinced Ms Macapagal serving as a transition president could still happen.

"I think that idea is not dead, that will still come out," said the official, who asked not to be named.

The source, however, said the question would have to wait while the President prepares for her campaign.

But Ms Macapagal's spokesperson, Ignacio Bunye, yesterday stressed that the President's condition for endorsing Charter change was that it should take place after the 2004 elections with the mode to be determined by the two houses of Congress.

"Even when the President was a senator, she had proposed certain amendments to the Constitution. But she has said now is not the time to undertake the amendments, preferring that they be taken up after the 2004 elections," Bunye said.

He was referring to the President's statement in Cebu City on Thursday where she said the country would be better off switching to the parliamentary form of government.

The President issued a statement yesterday saying the "early part of this century is the proper time to think about these fundamental changes in our political and economic modernization and consolidation."

She proposed that the Charter change issue be included in the platform of the candidates in the 2004 campaign.

"Our people should be enlightened on the issues involved so that when the proper time comes, they could make informed decisions on their future," she said.

The President said the parliamentary form of government could move reforms more efficiently and effectively since it improves the political interface between the executive and the legislature.

"It would also enable our country to keep in step with our Asian neighbors in terms of political and economic modernization and consolidation," she said.

Reds favor Roco, the 'least evil' bet

By Volt Contreras, *in Manila*, and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., *PDI Visayas Bureau*

AT THIS point, former Education Secretary Raul Roco would certainly welcome any endorsement for his presidential bid in 2004, but will he be comfortable with this one?

Exiled leftist leader Jose Ma. Sison on Thursday said he finds Roco to be "least evil" among the current list of presidential aspirants.

"Relatively, he has the cleanest record, although as education secretary he was the target of complaints from teachers," Sison told supporters via phone patch from Oslo, Norway where he was attending a conference.

"He's the least evil, for the simple reason that he has not yet been given a chance to hold sensitive government positions," Sison said.

The founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines noted, though, that in local politics, money still decides the fate of a presidential contender—something that Roco apparently lacks.

Hence, President Macapagal-Arroyo would enjoy the incumbent's edge in terms of resources and machinery, he said.

As for Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, Sison said he will still play the "kingmaker" in the 2004 polls because whoever he will back would benefit from his coffers that include the controversial coconut levy funds "which are yet to be returned to the people."

Sison clarified, though, that he is not rooting for any particular candidate. "This is my true-blooded analysis. It's not so much about what I wish for the Philippines. This is how (I think) the presidentiables now stand."

The leftist Bayan Muna party-list group, however, will not support any presidential candidate for 2004 from among those who have openly declared their plans.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo said none of those who have declared their candidacy fit their party's criteria.

"The candidate must have a track record of standing up for the people's interest," Ocampo yesterday told reporters and local officials during a consultation at the Hotel del Rio in Iloilo City.

He said they would also examine the candidate's platform of government and the composition of the senatorial slate.

Aside from President Macapagal, those who have declared their candidacies were Sen. Panfilo Lacson, Sen. Gregorio Honasan and Roco.

But Ocampo said Bayan Muna would definitely field or endorse candidates in the local level who share their position on various issues.

Malaysia kidnappers not in RP, says military

By TJ Burgonio *in Manila* and Julie S. Alipala, *PDI Mindanao Bureau*

THE KIDNAP group behind Sunday's abduction of six resort workers, including two Filipinos, from a Malaysian resort in Sabah has not been sighted in Philippine territory, the military said yesterday.

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Narciso Abaya yesterday said that reports the kidnappers had landed in Patikul, Sulu have not been confirmed.

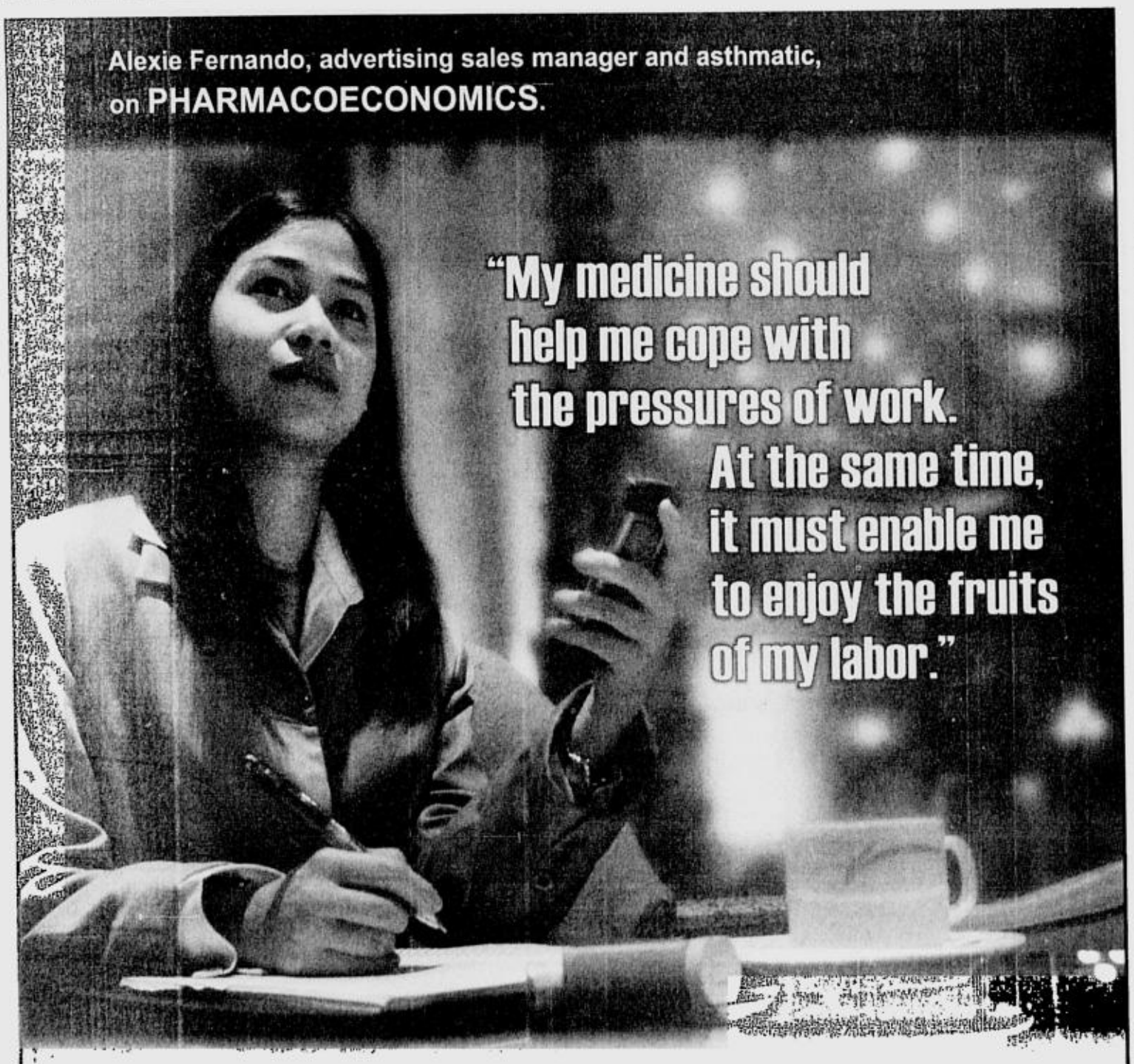
"There are no confirmed and official report about that landing of the six hostages allegedly in Jolo ... I have no basis to confirm or deny that report," he told reporters in Camp Aguinaldo.

Reports swirled on Thursday that the kidnap group, initially thought to be members of the Abu Sayyaf, and their hostages had been sighted in Patikul.

ABS-CBN News reported that 10 Malaysian pirates led by a certain Jambuladin Natukan brought their captives to Sulu. The report said Natukan has links with Abu Sayyaf after he trained alongside the bandit group's slain spokesperson Abu Sabaya.

Abaya said the whereabouts of the kidnap group and their hostages have not been established, saying, "That is very sketchy also. I just heard the unconfirmed reports that say Jolo was the place where they landed."

Brig. Gen. Nelson Allaga, commander of the 3rd Marine Brigade, told the INQUIRER that there was no indication the suspects had reached Sulu.



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Hambali confirms al-Qaida funding MILF

By Allan A. Nawal
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Al-Qaida, the international terrorist network of Saudi-born Osama bin Laden, provided some $27,000 (about P1.4 million) this year to the secessionist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) through Hambali, al-Qaida's top man in Southeast Asia, according to a report by TIME Magazine.

Time quoting US authorities said Hambali, born Riduan Isamuddin, admitted that al-Qaida was funding the MILF during interrogation in the remote island of Diego Garcia, a US military base in the Indian Ocean, shortly after he was turned over to the US government by Thai authorities.

Hambali also disclosed during interrogation that the MILF was training operatives of the Indonesia-based terror network Jemaah Islamiyah in its camps in Mindanao.

The revelations of Hambali, who was arrested in Thailand on Aug. 11, were published in the Oct. 13 issue of Time Magazine.

Time said it obtained copies of reports, dated Aug. 22 and 26, where Hambali allegedly detailed to Thai authorities the link between Bin Laden's al-Qaida, the MILF and other radical Muslim groups in Southeast Asia, including the JI.

In the Time article, Hambali claimed he received $130,000 from al-Qaida in June. Part of the funds went to the Moro separatist group and the JI, he said.

Bashir bin Lap, a Malaysian radical also known as Lillie, confirmed Hambali's claim after his arrest in Thailand in June, according to Time.

Lillie was working for Hambali when Thai authorities captured him along with another suspect, Mohammed Farik bin Amin.

Lillie said the $27,000 was transferred to the MILF for the purchase of rifles and pistols.

But Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, maintained that the MILF had no ties with al-Qaida or the JI.

"It would be better if US authorities would name names so we would know who are Hambali's contacts in the MILF," Kabalu said.

Meanwhile, an international human rights group claimed that US military aid and counterinsurgency training in Mindanao have only prolonged, instead of abated, the armed conflict in the island.

"The 'war on terror' has led to increasing numbers of arms being exported particularly by the US and the UK to newfound allies—such as Pakistan, Indonesia and the Philippines—regardless of human rights or development concerns," Amnesty International said in a 100-page report on the regulation of arms distribution worldwide.

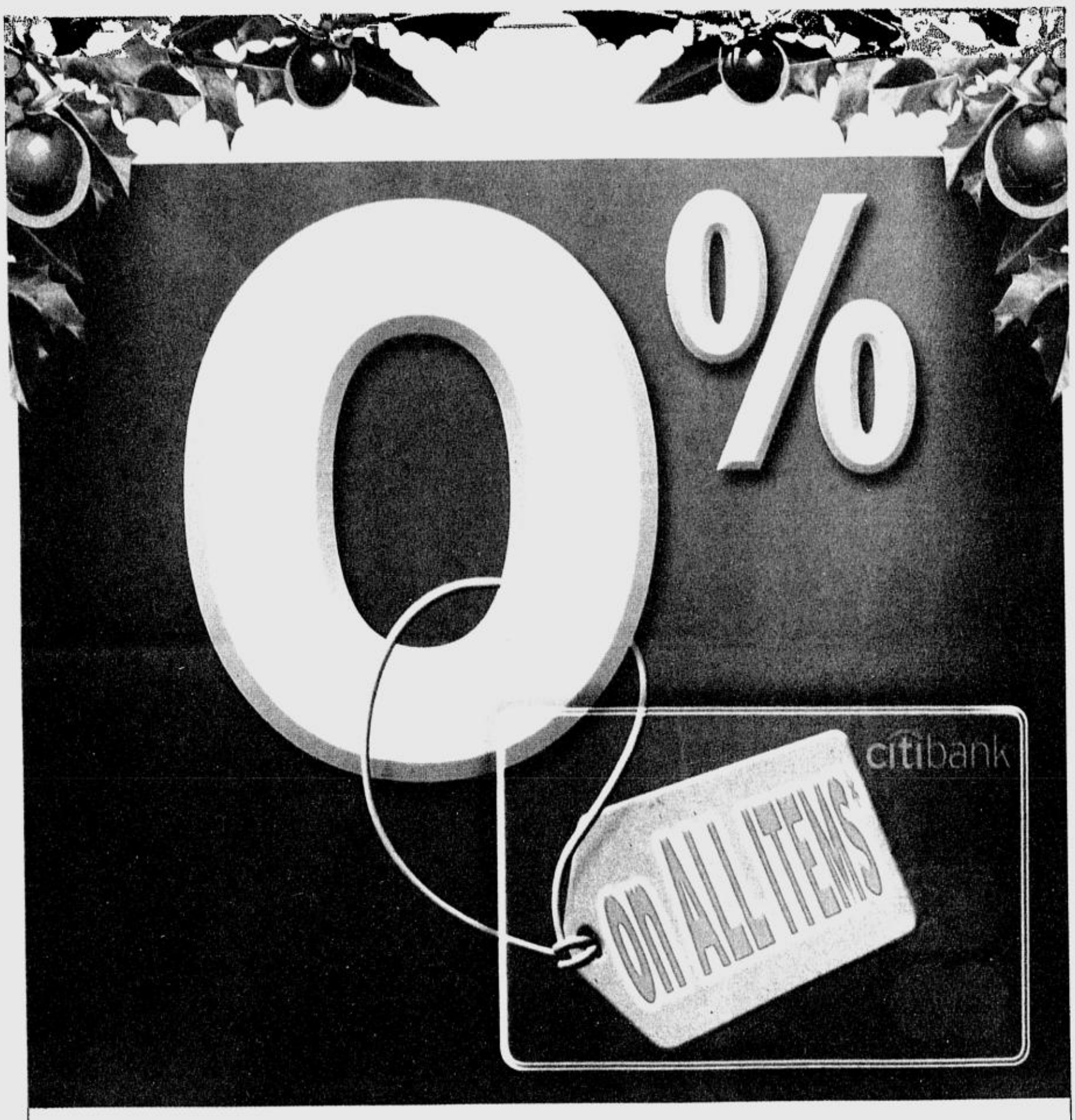
The rights group noted that in late 2001, the US offered the Philippines military equipment worth more than $100 million, including helicopters and transport planes and 30,000 M-16 rifles, to fight various armed groups.

"Each year, hundreds of thousands of people are unlawfully killed, tortured, raped and displaced through the misuse of arms. With the 'war on terror' dominating the international agenda, there should be renewed interest in arms control," said Irene Khan, secretary general of AI.

According to AI, statistics showed that 70 percent of Mindanao's population own one or more guns. Machine guns could be bought in Mindanao for as little as $375 or roughly P20,000 while revolvers are sold for as low as $15 or roughly P800.

"There is already a thriving illegal market in small arms in the Philippines, and there are fears that the injection of military equipment from the US—which includes small arms—may contribute to a further proliferation of these weapons," AI said.

With Norman Bordadora



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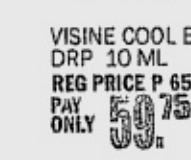
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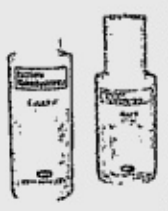
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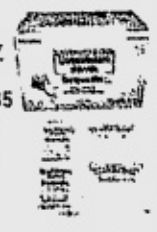
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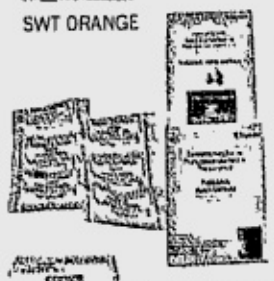
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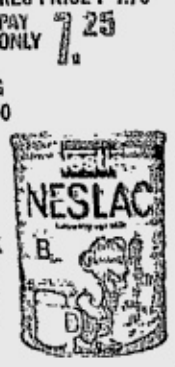
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Veteran politician tells Danding: Ignore hecklers, flatterers

By Carlito Pablo

A VETERAN congressman has a piece of unsolicited advice for Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco: Ignore the hecklers and flatterers.

"If he must decide to run for president, (Cojuangco) must do so on his own and not be swayed by what others are telling him," Rep. Roque Ablan Jr. (KBL-Lakas, Ilocos Norte) said.

Reacting to Sen. Aquilino Pimentel's claim that Cojuangco was now expected to renounce his presidential ambitions for 2004 and support President Macapagal-Arroyo instead, Ablan said: "Pimentel and company are baiting Cojuangco to prove that he's opposition and should run as opposition candidate."

Ablan also pointed to Cojuangco rah-rah boys like former ambassador Ernesto Maceda and Rep. Jacinto Paras (Lakas, Negros Oriental) who have been publicly saying that the businessman is definitely running for president.

"Maceda is only for Maceda," Ablan said. "They want Cojuangco to run simply because they want him to finance their own political plans."

Ablan said that if his reading of the situation is correct, Cojuangco will not run for president to avoid a head-on collision with Ms Macapagal at the polls.

"It would be bad for his business, SMC. He knows that and his business partners know it also," Ablan said.

He also said that one indicator was the consistency in statements being issued by Cojuangco nephew Rep. Gilbert Teodoro Jr. (NPC, Tarlac), head of the tightly-knit Nationalist People's Coalition bloc in the House.

Teodoro, who is considered Cojuangco's political heir-apparent, has openly supported initiatives to maintain the alliance of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and NPC, the party founded by Cojuangco.

Ablan also noted that Teodoro was staunchly in favor of charter change before 2004, the same line being espoused by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

"From the indications I see, Danding will not run and may just support the President," Ablan said.

Meanwhile, NPC spokesperson Rep. Francis Escudero (Sorsogon) denied that Malacañang and Cojuangco had cut a deal over the Sandiganbayan's most recent ruling.

But appearing Thursday night on GMA-7's Debate program, Escudero said the NPC still considered Lakas as a potential alliance partner for the 2004 elections.

Reporma aligns ...

From page A1

The four Guingona advocacies are good governance, national patrimony, local autonomy and the development of Mindanao. Mandanas claimed that Guingona's advocacies were similar to Reporma's.

The militant Bagong Alyansang Makabayan which is loath to support Ms Macapagal or whoever her opposition opponent would be in 2004, has urged Guingona and Sen. Loren Legarda, another breakaway administration politician, to form a third force that would present an alternative to the people.

Need for reforms

Addressing Guingona in that press conference, Mandanas said that the Reporma's National Executive Council made the decision "to join your advocacy" because Guingona "[embodied] the sense needed right now for reforms."

He said the party's leaders decided at a meeting recently to break away from the PPC so the party could pursue the fight against graft and corruption.

"What we need right now is really to fight for good governance," he explained, going on to question the President's reversal of an earlier pledge not to run in 2004.

Politicking

"[The President] said she would not run because she wanted to pursue good governance. That is what we want to continue. Once you declare [your intention to run], politicking starts. She is now politicking but we want to continue the fight for good governance," explained Mandanas, speaking in Filipino.

"That is why we are inviting Vice President Guingona to join the party so that we can set aside politics and work for the people," he added.

Guingona replied that he would give the "vital proposal due consideration."

Reporma, which is led by Renato de Villa, the presidential adviser on strategic concerns, was formed in 1998 mainly as a vehicle for De Villa's failed run for the presidency that year.

It claims to have five governors, five congressmen, mayors, vice governors and councilors in its roster. Mandanas said about 600 incumbent officials are members of the party.

De Villa not resigning

Reporma became a member of the PPC which essentially represented the victorious political forces in the second Edsa people power uprising that ousted jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada and installed Ms Macapagal in power.

The President's Lakas-NUCD (since renamed Lakas-CMD) leads the coalition composed of the Reporma, Aksyon Demokratiko, Promdi, the Liberal Party, Kampi and the Kompil II coalition of civil society groups.

Mandanas aid De Villa would not be resigning from his post in Ms Macapagal's administration.

Asked if Reporma would be allying itself with the opposition for the 2004 polls, Mandanas said they still have to look for a "principled leader."

Oppose Charter change

At the same press conference, Guingona said he would oppose any attempt to change the national patrimony provision in the Constitution when and if constitutional changes are introduced.

"I stand firmly opposed to opening up national patrimony ... I can't yield to pressure from outside that would prejudice Filipinos in their own house," he said.

He was commenting on the President's statement the other day that she was in favor of a shift to a parliamentary system.

"I only hope that in so deciding a shift in government, they do not give away God's gift to Filipinos, that they don't give away the nation's wealth to others," he said.

According to Guingona, the parliamentary form of government did not stop corruption in countries like Japan and Thailand where high-level corruption also occurs.

Guingona also outlined his economic program consisting of a four-point proposal to support domestic businesses using the national government's annual capital expenditure budget of P76 billion.

He said the money could be used to buy boots, uniforms, food and other needs of the Armed Forces.

He added that the Department of Public Works and Highways could also contract out roads and other infrastructure projects and source the raw materials locally.

Backing domestic business

Guingona said the government would focus on industries and agro-industrial enterprises that maximize activities to generate employment.

"The main example is housing because housing involves more than 60 industries directly or indirectly like cement, lumber, steel," he said.

He also proposed that government adopt long-range policies and rules that do not change arbitrarily and make it easier for businessmen to do business.

"This proposal does not mean we will not buy foreign goods and services. We will require Buy Filipino if it is funded by our taxpayers with 70 percent Filipino content," he said.

Estrada ally linked ...

From page A1

"It is clear at this point that the participation of Cardenas has not been exactly established either as a leader, promoter or spokesperson, or one who signed receipts for the Magdalo group or only as a follower or one who abets the aforesaid crime," the judge said, adding:

House owner only

"All that was established is that he owns the uninhabited house where the articles, firearms and ammunition allegedly belonging to the Magdalo group were found."

But Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida maintained that the government had a "strong" case against Cardenas.

Calida said that "under the principle of conspiracy," the Department of Justice considered Cardenas one of the "principal" suspects in the mutiny.

He said a leader of a coup d'état should not be allowed to post bail because the penalty for the crime was life imprisonment. He added that it was in the "discretion" of the judge if the suspect was allowed bail, but quickly qualified that this was "an exception."

High blood pressure

Saguisag posted bail for Cardenas at around 4 p.m. yesterday.

Camp Crame officials received the release order shortly before 5 p.m. Members of the Police Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) team escorted Cardenas from the Philippine National Police hospital to the office of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, where his release papers from the PNP were signed.

Cardenas was held at the Pacer detention facility after his arrest. He was moved to the PNP hospital after suffering from high blood pressure.

Cardenas was arrested on July 28 after police officers said his house at 2177 Paraiso St. in Dasmariñas Village, Makati, was used a staging area for the mutiny.

The lawmen said they found in the uninhabited house one M-14 and three M-16 assault rifles, assorted live ammunition, several boxes containing Philippine flags and red armbands similar to the ones used by the Magdalo group, 30 backpacks containing personal belongings and several empty grenade cases.

The lawmen also said they found rebel documents, including the Magdalo group's alleged "plan of action."

Cardenas was living in another house on Palm Avenue in Dasmariñas Village when he was arrested.

His lawyers said he had not stayed at the house on Paraiso Street for the past three years because it was being rented out.

Cardenas was originally charged with rebellion, a non-bailable offense, because he was no longer a public official during the mutiny. But this was later amended to the crime of coup d'état.

'I let them use it'

Judge Pimentel said the evidence presented by the prosecution was not enough to deny Cardenas bail, even when a policeman testified that he had overheard the latter saying to Saguisag, "*Pinagamit ko yun* (I let them use it)."

Insp. Elbert Pagente, who had invited Cardenas for questioning, said he heard the accused talking to Saguisag when they were on their way to Camp Crame inside the latter's car.

Pimentel noted that Pagente had admitted that he did not know if Cardenas was referring to his house or something else.

Trial goes on

Pagente also told the court that Cardenas was not given the chance to witness the search inside his house because he was in Camp Crame laid low by high blood pressure.

"As this is an application for bail, the court need not discuss the merits of the case," Pimentel said.

He said bail could still be granted on the basis of humanitarian considerations even if the accused was not ill.

The judge said he had set hearings for Cardenas' motions to quash information and to quash a search warrant on Nov. 10, 12 and 17.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño said Pimentel's ruling would not prevent the prosecution from presenting its evidence against Cardenas.

"The trial will go on," he said.

Swift attack

Under the Revised Penal Code, the crime of coup d'état is "a swift attack, accompanied by violence, intimidation, threat, strategy or stealth, directed against duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines, or any military camp or installation, communications network, public utilities or other facilities needed for the exercise and continued possession of power."

It is committed by "any person or persons, belonging to the military or police or holding any public office or employment, with or without civilian support or participation, for the purpose of seizing or diminishing state power." *With a report from Christian V. Esguerra*

Palace sees Al-Ghozi capture before Bush visit

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Christian V. Esguerra and TJ Burgonio

MALACAÑANG now hopes that fugitive Indonesian bomber Fathur Roman Al-Ghozi would be captured soon following the arrest of an Abu Sayaff guerrilla who escaped with the Islamic militant from a Camp Crame jail in mid-July.

"We hope that (the arrest of Abu Sayyaf member Omar Opik Lasal) would increase our chances to land the early capture of Al-Ghozi," President Macapagal-Arroyo said in a statement yesterday.

Malacañang hopes to recapture Al-Ghozi before the state visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18.

Lasal was captured Wednesday by members of Task Force Tabak, a joint police-military team, at a checkpoint in Zamboanga del Sur.

Lasal, Al-Ghozi and another Abu Sayyaf suspect, Abdulmukim Ong Edris, bolted their high-security detention cell in Camp Crame on July 14. Edris was recaptured in August but was shot when he tried to flee from his captors.

"This arrest demonstrates how much we have tightened the dragnet against terrorists to the extent that they have been continuously immobilized. Our eyes and ears are open in the communities most vulnerable to terrorist incursions and our vigilance will not relent," Ms Macapagal said.

But a military official yesterday warned that Lasal might suffer the same fate as Edris who was killed in an alleged shootout on Aug. 7, more than two weeks after he, Lasal and Al-Ghozi escaped from Camp Crame.

The official, a member of the Army's 1st Infantry Division, admitted that "setting up" Lasal was a possibility once the military had extracted from him information that would lead to the recapture of Al-Ghozi.

"That's what they did to Edris and it might also happen to Lasal," he told the INQUIRER.

The official said that like Edris, Lasal had been used as a "tracer" but was "arrested" after the military had located Al-Ghozi's whereabouts.

Members of the Southern Command are now interrogating Lasal to determine Al-Ghozi's location and how the two, together with Edris, managed to escape from Camp Crame.

From PNP headquarters in Quezon City, the three went to Matnog, Sorsogon, then to Cagayan de Oro City, the Army source said.

From Cagayan de Oro, Edris allegedly went back to his military handlers while Lasal escorted Al-Ghozi to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front camp in Lanao del Sul where a group of bandits from Indonesia was staying.

With reports from Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Order retake of Mercantile Law exam, SC urged

By Philip C. Tubeza

THIS YEAR'S bar examinees may yet have to retake the test on Mercantile Law.

This after an Integrated Bar of the Philippines official asked the Supreme Court to reconsider its decision to allocate the subject's 15-percent weight to the seven other bar exam subjects.

The high court had given the order after a leakage of test questions on Mercantile Law was discovered on Sept. 21.

Lawyer Claro B. Flores, a director of the IBP-Manila III chapter, filed a petition with the SC seeking a re-exam on Mercantile Law.

Flores also said "the law schools, lawyers and examinees" responsible for the leak should be made to reimburse "all the expenses" incurred in conducting the exam.

"The adoption of the proposal might redeem the lost integrity of the bar examinations and save the honorable court and the legal profession from negative criticisms and from doubt," added Flores.

To determine who should retake the test, he said the SC should consider the results of the leaked exam that was given on Sept. 21 to see who among the examinees made the minimum 50-percent grade requirement.

"Those who failed to meet the minimum grade requirement should be disqualified from retaking the test. After all, with or without the (leakage), those who failed to meet the minimum requirement would still be disqualified," Flores said.

He said those who met the minimum grade on Mercantile Law should retake the test provided they also met the 50-percent minimum grade in the seven other bar exam subjects.

Flores said they should also have the possibility of getting an average of 75 percent in all subjects.

The SC on Sept. 29 reversed its order for the examinees to take another exam on Mercantile Law, scheduled for Oct. 4, after appeals by examinees and law deans.

A total of 5,455 law graduates took the 2003 bar examinations at De La Salle University in Manila during the four Sundays of September.

The petitioners noted that the bar examinees—most of whom had come from the provinces—were prepared to stay in Manila for only four weeks and were not financially or emotionally ready to stay another week.

The Supreme Court agreed and ordered that the 15-percent weight of the Mercantile Law exam be distributed among the grades of the seven other bar subjects.

It added that this would also save the court a considerable amount of time, money and effort in conducting another exam.

Flores "respectfully" disagreed, adding that his proposal would save the examinees from being called "attorneys incomplete," "attorneys de facto" and "attorneys *pito-pito*" after they are admitted to the bar.

"This petition is not intended to make it difficult for bar candidates to become lawyers or drain the financial resources of the honorable court. Rather, it is intended to make the process of bar admission fair and to restore the people's respect for the legal profession," Flores said.

"After all, if we cannot be fair to ourselves, how can we be expected to dispense justice for others?" he asked.

Flores proposed that the Bar Examination Committee consider conducting the new Mercantile Law exam not later than five days after the publication of the names of the persons who are qualified to take it.

"This will give the examinees from the far-flung areas of the country sufficient notice and time to come to Manila for (the exam)," he said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, October 11, 2003
27th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jl 4:12-21
Gospel: Lk 11:27-28

As Jesus was speaking, a woman spoke from the crowd and said to him, "Blessed is the one who bore you and nursed you!" Jesus replied, "Surely blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it as well."

Commentary

"Surely blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it as well." Jesus just performed a miracle by driving away evil spirit and a woman in the crowd shouted: "Blessed is the one who bore you, and nursed you." Mary is indeed blessed because she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus. She conceived Jesus in her womb and nursed him. Yet for Jesus, there is something more and greater than biological relations. It is the new family based not on flesh and blood but on the word of God. The relations of the early disciples, the relations within the Church, the relations within religious orders and congregations are all based on the word of God. If there are problems within the life of the Church, then they should spend more time listening to the Word of God and keeping it.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)—Appeal in criminal cases—An appeal is a "resort to a superior (i.e. Appellate) court to review the decision of an inferior (i.e. Trial) court or administrative agency." As a statutory remedy to correct errors which might have been committed by the lower court, the object of an appeal is simply and solely the protection of the accused. The right to appeal is a mere statutory privilege and is not a natural right or part of the due process. Like any other right or privilege, it may be waived. If a fundamental right of an accused enshrined in the Bill of Rights, such as the right against self-incrimination or the right to remain silent, among others, may be deemed waived depending on the circumstances of a given case, then with more reason may the right to appeal, which is merely statutory, be also waived validly, subject as in this case to the sound discretion of the court. [Citations omitted.] [Resolution, Justice Quisumbing, Second Division, People v. Paradeza, G.R. No. 144590, February 7, 2003] BY R. B. VEIRA

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Palestinian PM tenders resignation

RAMALLAH, West Bank—Palestinian prime minister Ahmed Qorei tendered his resignation Thursday, just two days after being sworn in by Yasser Arafat and as another suicide bomber blew himself up in the West Bank.

"Ahmed Qorei has submitted his resignation to the president," a source close to Arafat said after a key session of parliament was postponed.

It was not immediately clear if the resignation was accepted, but the top aide to Arafat said the Palestinian leader retained his confidence in Qorei and another senior source said the dispute would probably be resolved in 24 hours.

The news came after a session of the Palestinian parliament, at which Qorei was due to outline his program of government, was postponed amid differences over the cabinet's status.

When Arafat formally named Qorei to the post on Sunday, he also declared a state of emergency, with Qorei to have headed a small emergency cabinet.

But some MPs argued that while Arafat had the right to declare a state of emergency, the constitution did not provide for an emergency cabinet and that Qorei's team required parliamentary approval.

Sources said a meeting of senior members of the mainstream Fatah movement broke up acrimoniously, with Arafat objecting to the presence of Nasser Yussef. He was slated to be the new interior minister but who refused to take the oath of office Tuesday when Qorei and six other ministers were sworn in.

Arafat wanted approval of the emergency cabinet, while Qorei, in the speech he was due to deliver to parliament, was to advocate a "normal limited cabinet."

"Abu Alaa stormed out of the meeting," a source said, using Qorei's nickname.

Later Thursday, top Arafat advisor Nabil Abu Rudeina said the Palestinian leader "continues to have confidence in Abu Alaa as well as his cabinet." He played down the differences as "normal internal problems."

QOREI

Another source close to Arafat said on condition of anonymity that "an arrangement will probably be found in the coming 24 hours" to iron out the differences.

Meanwhile, senior European politicians reacted with dismay and apprehension at news of the resignation, fearing it would deal a further blow to the battered Middle East peace process.

"This gives another negative contribution to the peace process," said Romano Prodi, president of the European Commission.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said Qorei's status was "not clear" and that there had been no confirmation of his resignation.

"I hope that my friend prime minister Abu Alaa will continue," Solana told journalists. "He has the full support of the EU to continue as prime minister."

Italian Foreign Minister Franco Frattini said that "if the resignation... is confirmed, it would be a further reason for the international community to be seriously worried about the future of the Middle East peace process."

Italy currently holds the rotating presidency of the EU.

In Washington, State Department spokesperson Richard Boucher said "we don't have any particular information on whether it's a formal submission, or what exactly has been done."

He added that Washington was "watching the events very closely" and keeping "in touch with the parties."

Arafat nominated Qorei as premier a month ago after Mahmud Abbas quit over a power struggle with him.

In an interview with AFP earlier this week, Qorei said he would make a mutual ceasefire with Israel the top priority of his new government in a bid to bring an end to a cycle of bloodshed between the two sides.

But there was no respite in the violence on the ground Thursday as a suicide bomber wounded at least two Israeli soldiers and one Palestinian near a checkpoint in the West Bank town of Tulkarem, Israeli military sources said.

The blast, which killed the male bomber, took place around 2 p.m. at a booth where permits are issued for residents of the West Bank to travel and also close to an army checkpoint, the source said. One of those wounded was in a serious condition, the source added. *AFP*

Israeli forces kill 4 Palestinians in Gaza raid

RAFAH, Gaza Strip—Israeli forces trying to demolish Palestinian weapons smuggling tunnels fought gunmen for hours Friday in the largest army raid in half a year in this refugee camp, a frequent battlefield. Four Palestinians were killed and 38 wounded, and an Israeli soldier was also hurt.

Israel's raid of the Rafah refugee camp, which began around midnight Thursday, was part of stepped up military activity in response to last weekend's suicide bombing that killed 20 Israelis in a restaurant in the port city of Haifa. Media reports said the operation could last several days.

Earlier this week, Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz ordered two more battalions into the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and decided to call up four battalions of reserve soldiers, or about 1,000 troops, after the Sukkot holiday which ends in a week.

Troops have been enforcing a strict travel ban, confining Palestinians in the West Bank to their communities and blocking main roads in the Gaza Strip.

The Rafah raid was aimed at uncovering weapons smuggling tunnels. Armored vehicles and attack helicopters swept into the camp on Gaza's border with Egypt, joined by special forces, including engineering units with dogs trained to find tunnels.

Gun battles erupted between soldiers and Palestinian gunmen and continued until after daybreak Friday.

Four Palestinians, including a teenager, were killed and 38 people wounded by Israeli fire, Palestinians said. Most of the casualties were caused when a helicopter fired a missile at a crowd. The military said the missile targeted a group of gunmen.

An Israeli soldier was also lightly wounded in the fighting.

Dr. Ali Mousa, director of Rafah's small Najar Hospital, said women and children were among the wounded, but that he did not have an exact breakdown yet of armed men and civilians.

Mousa said his hospital was overwhelmed by the large numbers of casualties. He said many of the wounded required surgery, but that he has only one operating room and did not have enough medicine and other supplies. *AP*

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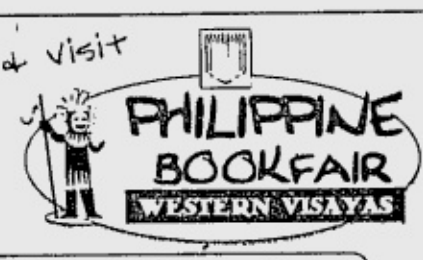

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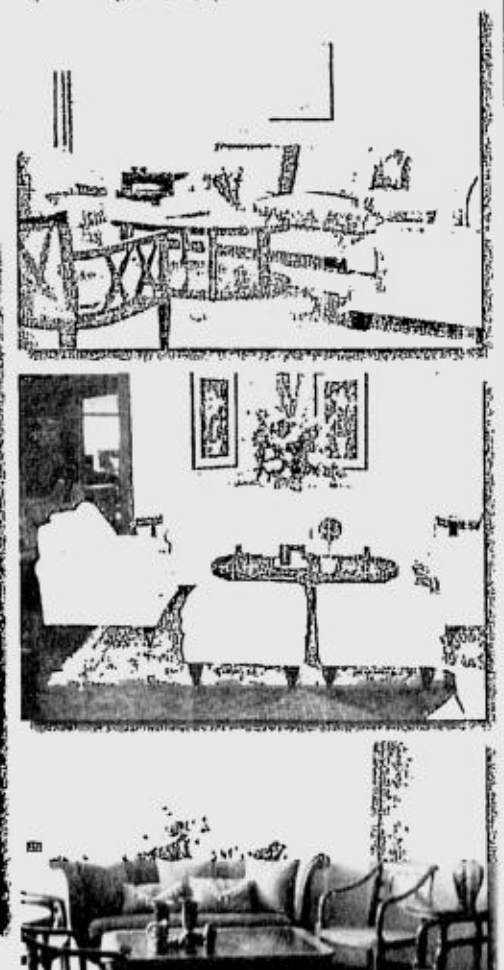

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AFTER BAGHDAD CAR BOMBING

2 US soldiers killed in ambush

BAGHDAD—Another dangerous front opened for the US military in Iraq Friday after two soldiers were killed in an ambush in Baghdad's volatile Sadr City following a shootout between US forces and a Shiite militia in the wake of a car bomb blast that killed nine people.

Thursday's car bomb attack on a police station in the poor and densely populated Shiite suburb stirred up trouble between the US occupying forces and young firebrand Shiite cleric Moqtada Sadr, the founder of the thousands-strong Mehdi Army militia and a vehement foe of the US presence in Iraq.

"Two 1st AD (armored division) soldiers were killed in action and four wounded in an ambush" in Sadr City on Thursday at 8 p.m., the US military said in a statement.

It was not clear if the soldiers' deaths came in the same firefight between US troops and the Mehdi Army that left one Iraqi militant dead and wounded two others, according to members of Sadr's militia.

The chaos in Sadr City followed Thursday morning's car bombing which killed three Iraqi policemen, five civilians and the suicide bomber, according to a US military police spokesperson.

A hospital official said another 38 people were wounded in the blast, which sent bodies flying onto the roof of the police station.

It was the deadliest attack since a car bomb killed influential moderate Shiite leader Ayatollah Mohammad Baqer al-Hakim and 82 others in the Muslim holy city of Najaf on Aug. 29.

The blast increased tensions among the country's Shiites, still reeling from Hakim's death, as the young cleric's followers, angered by US forces searching Moqtada Sadr's offices, paraded the streets, toting assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers.

AN IRAQI man sits on a bed in front of a US armored personnel carrier during a search for weapons by the US 720 Military Police Battalion in a village near Tikrit on Oct. 9. REUTERS

The Shiite majority, who were repressed by the minority Sunnis under the rule of Saddam Hussein, initially welcomed the arrival of US-led forces to topple Saddam's regime.

But six months later their attitude has hardened as the coalition continues to flounder, struggling to restore basic services and sovereignty to the Iraqis, though the top US official in Iraq, Paul Bremer, Thursday described the ongoing violence as "bumps in the road."

Bremer claimed the accomplishments of the coalition "exceeded expectations," while US President George W. Bush, facing growing criticism at home, launched a new drive to sell his administration's policy in Iraq.

Meanwhile violence continued in the flashpoints north of Baghdad, notably in Baquba, the day after a US soldier died in an RPG attack in the town 65 km northeast of the Iraqi capital.

Four policemen were wounded early Friday when grenades were thrown at their station in Baquba, one of them, Hussein Alwan, 28, said.

US forces also arrested 15 people in dawn searches early Friday at Al-Mafrak, west of Baquba, witness Amer Talal, 22, said.

Coalition forces and US-backed Iraqi police face almost daily attacks, blamed by the coalition on guerrillas loyal to Saddam and Islamic extremists who have infiltrated Iraq.

Meanwhile, Spain mourned the death of First Sergeant Jose Antonio Bernal Gomez, who was assassinated at his home in Baghdad Thursday, in a reminder of the city's dangers.

Gomez, described by the foreign ministry in Madrid as an intelligence officer, "died as a result of gunshots fired by a group of people who Thursday morning went to his home," the ministry said. The attackers fired five times at Bernal when he opened the door.

Spain was a strong supporter of the war against Saddam and has some 1,250 soldiers in Iraq. *AFP*

Farmers threaten resistance

DULUIYAH, Iraq—Khudeir Khalil was a quiet farmer before US troops drove tanks onto his property and leveled the plantations, saying the lush date and orange groves provided camouflage for resistance forces.

"The Americans—who claim they want to help us rebuild our country—are now destroying our trees and fruits. Tell me, what kind of civilized people destroy plants," a clearly angered Khalil shouted.

"They say resistance fighters could hide in the fields, but I tell you these are my fields and nobody goes into them. There are no attacks around here," he said, as a mob of angry men in traditional Arab white robes nod in support.

Khalil is sitting on the side of a dusty road leading to his native Duluiyah, a large village where Sunni Muslim tribes farm a modest living out of the banks of the Tigris River.

But the plantation fields are barren resembling the aftermath of a hurricane after US troops last week razed the paddocks of fruit trees. Now a handful of residents are scavenging the trunks and debris to make charcoal.

"We cannot benefit from the fruits anymore, so we will try to earn some money from charcoal," explained Mohammad Saleh amid the stone houses which were once shaded by the plantation.

Duluiyah, more than 100 km northwest of Baghdad, lies in the so-called Sunni triangle, where most anti-coalition attacks are being launched by forces loyal to the ousted regime of Saddam Hussein.

The village is also home to large and powerful tribes which once contributed forces to Saddam's elite Republican Guards and intelligence services.

US authorities in occupied Iraq are tight-lipped about the plantation clearing, as US overseer Paul Bremer said he had "no idea" when asked why the plantations were cleared, adding: "It's the first I've heard about it." *AFP*

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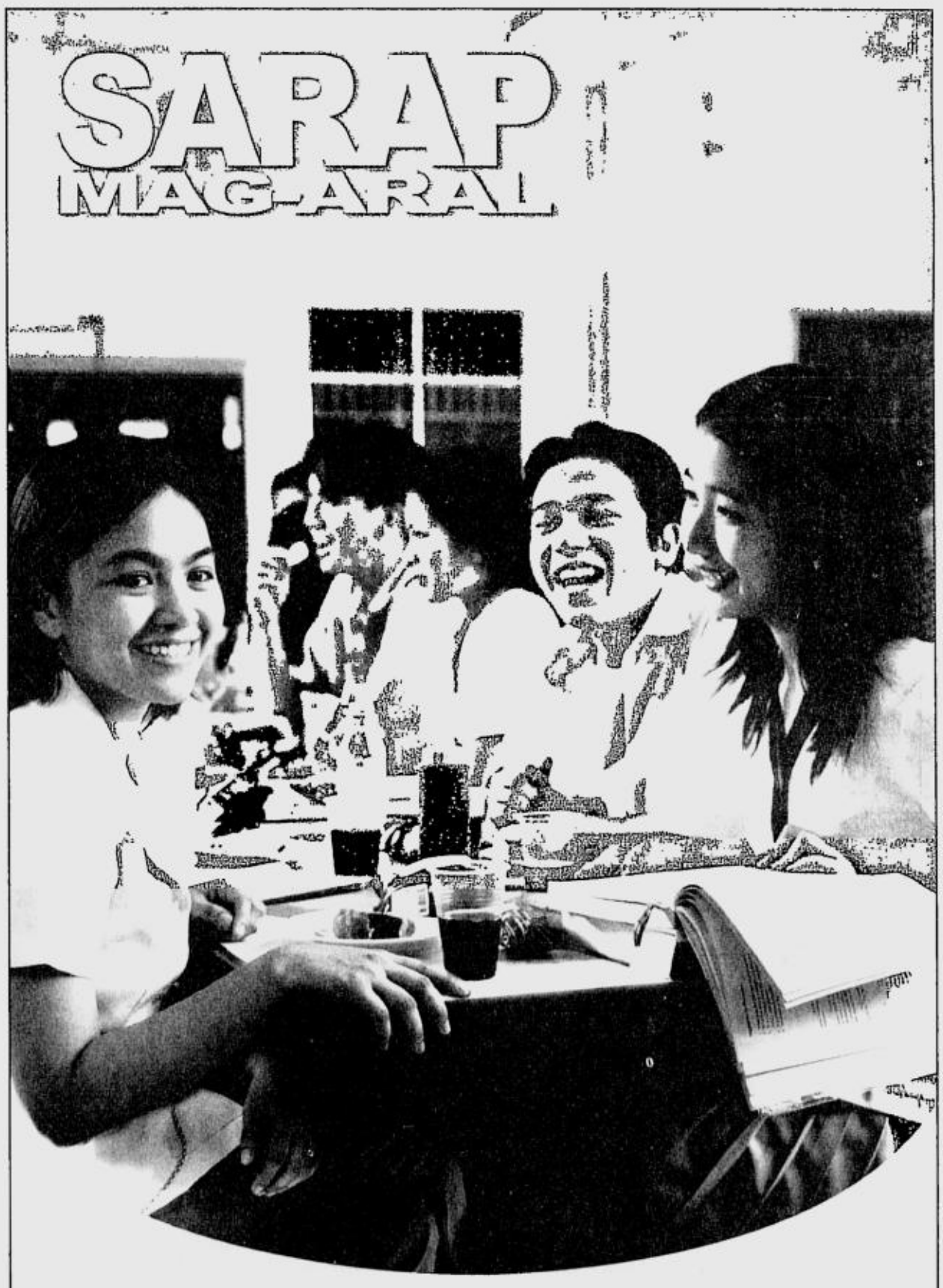

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Roh to seek renewed mandate from S. Koreans

ROH MOO-HYUN

SEOUL—South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun said Friday he would subject himself to a vote of confidence, possibly in the form of a referendum, following a corruption scandal that has engulfed an associate.

The president apologized for the scandal and said the confidence vote would take place after an investigation of the affair had concluded.

"Regardless of the results (of the investigation), I will ask for a vote of confidence from the nation concerning national mistrust which has been growing over issues including this one," he said at a press conference.

"I haven't found an appropriate method yet. I have thought of a national referendum, but there is an issue of national security there and I wonder whether that is a proper method."

The beleaguered president, in office for just over seven months, has seen his approval ratings crash from the nearly 80 percent to just over 20 percent since he won election in December last year.

Roh is blamed for his perceived failure to control militant labor unions and reverse South Korea's economic recession. His backers have also turned against him over the lingering North Korean nuclear crisis.

Conservatives say he is too soft on the North Korean communists while liberals say he is too close to Washington's hard line.

The decision to seek a vote of confidence comes after prosecutors accused Choi Do-sul, a longtime loyalist and former top aide, of taking around $1 million in bribes from SK Corp, South Korea's third largest business group, in exchange for favors.

Choi, the ex-presidential secretary for general affairs, denies the charge.

Roh indicated that a vote of confidence would take place before parliamentary elections set for April and said public opinion would determine the method used to obtain the vote.

"I will rely on public opinion and I will be able to find a proper method," he said.

Choi, a boyhood friend, is one of the president's longtime loyalists who served as an aide when Roh became a member of the National Assembly as a lawmaker in the late 1980s.

He was a senior party official for the former human rights lawyer in the southern port city of Busan, Roh's hometown.

Choi served as presidential secretary when Roh took office in February, but resigned in August, ostensibly to seek a National Assembly seat in April's parliamentary elections.

Roh swept to power in December's elections promising to root out corruption from the presidential Blue House following the scandal-tainted term of his predecessor Kim Dae-jung.

Kim's presidency was marred by persistent corruption scandals that saw the departure under a cloud of a string of top officials and the jailing of two of his sons for bribery.

Roh never had a honeymoon when he took over, facing a slowing economy and an accelerating nuclear crisis.

The 57-year-old former human rights lawyer stunned the country when he said in June just 100 days into his five-year term that he was struggling under the pressure and felt he was not "up to the job" of governing. *AFP*

Afghans agree to truce after 2 days of fighting

MAZAR-I-SHARIF, Afghanistan—Rival warlords Thursday agreed to a ceasefire after two days of heavy fighting between their militias in northern Afghanistan left nearly 80 fighters dead or wounded.

Tajik Gen. Atta Mohammad and his rival Uzbek Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostam agreed to the ceasefire after a meeting with Interior Minister Ali Ahmad Jalali and the British ambassador Ron Nash, Mohammad told reporters.

"In this meeting we agreed to a ceasefire with immediate effect which will apply to all of the north," he said.

Hundreds of militiamen from Mohammad's Jamiat and Dostam's Junbish factions would withdraw from the frontlines west of Mazar-i-Sharif.

Jalali gave the troops one day to withdraw.

"In one day all soldiers must withdraw from the frontlines and maintain a distance of 40-50 km between them," he said.

"In three days I will send 300 police from Kabul to Mazar to take charge of security in the city," he said. Jalali has previously complained about the factionalized police force in Mazar-i-Sharif, the main city in northern Afghanistan.

The warring factions also agreed to set up a commission to investigate the cause of the conflict and check that the militias were withdrawing as agreed.

United Nations, Jamiat and Junbish officials would join the commission along with representatives from the British-run provincial reconstruction team in Mazar-i-Sharif, which includes around 70 soldiers.

Fighting erupted Wednesday at Fayzabad, around 60 km west of Mazar-i-Sharif. Dostam's stronghold of Sheberghan lies 60 km further west of Fayzabad.

The fighting had moved to within 20 km of the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif and was Thursday centered on the outskirts of Balkh.

"From last night up to now we have more than 70 soldiers killed and injured," Mohammad's deputy Gen. Abdul Sabor said.

Dostam's deputy Sayed Nurullah said three of his fighters had been killed and six wounded. Both sides brought tanks to their frontlines and were using light and heavy weapons, Nurullah said before the ceasefire.

Tensions between the rival militias have been mounting since the weekend when two of Dostam's commanders were allegedly kidnapped by Atta Mohammad's forces in Kod-e-barq, 20 km west of Mazar-i-Sharif. *AFP*

BOLIVIA UNREST

Bolivian soldiers take up positions on a blockaded highway in Ventilla, some 30 km outside of the capital La Paz, Oct 9. Thousands of people, including coca farmers angry at a US-backed drive to eradicate illegal crops of coca, the raw ingredient in cocaine, have marched across Bolivia in protest over the past month. An unpopular project to export natural gas to the United States through Chile, historically with tense diplomatic relations with Bolivia because of a border dispute, became a lightning rod for wider protests. REUTERS

Treaty ban on light arms sought

LONDON—Two of the world's best-known non-governmental organizations joined forces Thursday in a major campaign to get the world's first arms trade treaty in place by 2006.

Amnesty International and Oxfam said they want to stop small arms and light weapons from being exported to places where they are likely to be used to commit grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law.

In a report titled "Shattered Lives: The Case for Tough International Arms Controls," they said they wanted to see a treaty to ban such exports by 2006—the year that the United Nations is next due to discuss light arms.

To publicize their report, the groups installed a lifesize graveyard in Trafalgar Square in central London, representing the estimated 500,000 people who die each year from "armed violence" worldwide.

Passers-by were invited to have their photograph taken, to be pasted onto a billboard for a giant petition called "The Million Faces."

The campaign against small arms—defined as anything from a pistol to an assault rifle—was being extended to 65 countries by the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA).

"The arms trade is totally out of control," Oxfam director Barbara Stocking told a press conference in London.

Weapons are recycled, changing hands "in a climate of total impunity," said Conmany Wesseh, a Liberian-born co-founder of IANSA, which aims to stop proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

The result of this impunity, campaigners said, is that 639 million light weapons circulate around the world—roughly one for every 10 people on Earth.

Furthermore, eight million weapons and 16 billion rounds of ammunition are produced each year. *AFP*

Russia rules out strategy of preemptive nuclear strikes

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colorado—Russian Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov assured Nato Thursday that Moscow is not seeking to adopt a preemptive nuclear strategy despite reports to the contrary.

But Ivanov said Russia reserved the right to launch preventive conventional military attacks against other countries under circumstances that he said were spelled out to the ministers.

"Russia still regards nuclear weapons as a means of political deterrence. We do not envisage a scenario or a situation where we would use such weapons first," he said through a translator at a news conference here.

Ivanov was forced to clear the air after asserting Russia's right to preemptive attack in a speech in Moscow last week.

The speech coincided with the release of a Russian defense ministry document that warned that Moscow would conduct "a fundamental reassessment" of its planning and arms procurement if Nato maintained its current "offensive military strategy.

But in his meetings here, Ivanov said accounts of the speech and the document were incorrect and he stressed that Moscow seeks broader cooperation with Nato.

He gave Nato Secretary General George Robertson and the ministers an English copy of the documents, which officials said were still being reviewed.

Ivanov also met with US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and was given a tour of the North American Aerospace Defense command buried inside Cheyenne Mountain, which overlooks the meeting site.

US ambassador to Nato Nicholas Burns said Ivanov assured them "there were no negative Russian intentions toward Nato whatsoever."

"In fact, not only the body language but everything he said was in the opposite direction—we want to build the relationship—and he thought it was very positive," he said.

Ticking off areas where Nato and Russia are working together, Burns listed counterproliferation, a feasibility study on theater missile defense, submarine search and rescue.

Robertson also said he thought "there must have been some crossed signals here."

Asked at the news conference about the documents reference to Nato as an offensive alliance with anti-Russian components, Ivanov called the report a "canard." *AFP*

KOIZUMI (left) listens as fellow politicians cheer "banzai" at the Lower House after Koizumi dissolved the House in Tokyo Oct. 10. REUTERS

Koizumi sets Nov. 9 poll, reform test

TOKYO—Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Friday called a Nov. 9 election that will test whether he can turn his personal popularity into an emphatic win for his conservative party and claim a new mandate for change.

Lower House lawmakers shouted the traditional "Banzai" ("long life") after Speaker Tamisuke Watanuki read out an order to dissolve the powerful chamber.

A cabinet meeting later formally set Nov. 9 as the election day for a campaign that will kick off Oct. 28.

The general election will be the first since Koizumi swept to power in 2001 on a wave of grassroots support for his reform agenda to rein in public spending, privatize postal services and money-guzzling public firms, and fix Japan's ailing banks.

"This' will be a 'reform election,'" Koizumi told lawmakers from his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) after the dissolution. "I seek your support to win the confidence of the people that the LDP has really changed."

Buoyed by signs that Japan's long-stagnant economy is at last recovering, the LDP is counting on traditional backers such as farmers and small business owners, plus Koizumi's popularity, to help it keep a majority in the 480-seat Lower House.

A surge in the yen to three-year highs against the dollar has, however, clouded the outlook for the export-led recovery.

As if with that in mind, the Bank of Japan unexpectedly eased its monetary policy on Friday by increasing the amount of funds sloshing around the financial system.

The ruling bloc—the LDP and its junior partners, the Buddhist-backed New Komeito and the New Conservative Party—held 285 seats in the chamber prior to dissolution.

The LDP alone had 244 against 137 for the opposition Democratic Party, which hopes its recent merger with a smaller rival and a detailed platform of its own reform ideas will improve its prospects.

"I think it will be the first real election in 10 years where the administration will be at stake," Democratic Party leader Naoto Kan told reporters, referring to 1993, when the LDP lost power for the only time in its nearly 50-year history.

"I think there are few people who think the current situation in Japan is good. I want the people of Japan to feel courage, that their one vote can change Japan," Kan added.

Koizumi's support ratings leapt by as much as 20 percentage points to more than 60 percent of voters after he shook up top party and cabinet posts last month, putting several youthful, media-friendly politicians in the limelight.

Those ratings could get a further boost from media coverage of his meeting with close ally US President George W. Bush in Tokyo next Friday.

That strategy might backfire, though, if Koizumi seems to be bowing too deeply to US demands for hefty financial aid and significant participation by Japanese troops in rebuilding Iraq, an issue that will be high on the two leaders' agenda. *Reuters*

Schwarzenegger launches audit of California books

LOS ANGELES—Movie star politician Arnold Schwarzenegger started his promised audit of the state's books Thursday in an effort to get a handle on California's staggering budget deficit.

The action star held his second press conference in his two days as governor-elect and introduced the people who will help pave the way for him to take office in November, headed by southern California congressman David Dreier.

"I want to have the best and the brightest people come and work in my administration," he said. "The process has already begun."

"The only way that you can make good decisions is if you have good information available," he said. "We have to open up the books and let the sun shine in."

Schwarzenegger named Donna Arduin, who works for President George W. Bush's brother Gov. Jeb Bush of Florida, to head the audit panel.

Schwarzenegger faces the daunting challenge of fixing the state's budget deficit, which rose to a staggering $38-billion by the end of the last fiscal year. He has pledged not to raise taxes and to rescind a controversial tripling of the state's car tax.

The governor-elect said he would cut spending, eliminate waste and seek federal assistance to tackle California's woes.

"There is no White House connection in the transition team," he said. But "I am looking forward to working with the federal government." Schwarzenegger said he had spoken to President Bush and said "I need his help and I need the federal government's help." *AFP*

Muslim rights lawyer wins Nobel Peace Prize

From page A1

betting sites had given 2-1 odds on Havel winning the prize.

Disappointed

In Poland, Solidarity founder Lech Walesa, the 1983 prize winner, was disappointed that the Pope did not get the award.

"I have nothing against this woman, but if there is someone alive in the world who deserves this distinction it is certainly the Holy Father," Walesa told TVN24.

"The Pope has so many merits, he has tried to convince the big powers that peace is always a better solution than war. The one who has done the most in the world, for all religions, did not get the prize," he said.

A Vatican source said the Pope will send a message of congratulations to Ebadi.

"The fact that the Nobel prize is being given to a woman and a Muslim is a reason for great satisfaction," said the source, who wished to remain anonymous.

In Prague, Havel's secretary said the former president believed Ebadi merited the award and warmly congratulated her on her win.

Promoting moderates

Nobel watchers say the five-man Committee, which includes three women, probably chose Ebadi as a way of promoting change, rather than rewarding the ailing pope or Havel.

They say the committee has been seeking to promote moderates in the Muslim world since the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States to avoid stoking conflicts between religions after the US-led wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Many researchers say the Pope's opposition to birth control, premarital sex, homosexuality and female priests seemed intolerant and outmoded to many in liberal Norway—especially women.

Iranians happy

Iran's reformist government said it was "happy" over Ebadi's win.

"We are happy that an Iranian Muslim woman was qualified to be noticed by the world community for her activities in bringing about peace," government spokesperson Abdollah Ramazanzadeh told Agence France Presse.

"We hope we could use her expert views more in Iran," he added.

Vice President Ali Abtahi said the award highlighted the active role of Iranian women in trying to shape how the Islamic republic is run.

"I am very happy that an Iranian and above all a woman has won the Nobel Peace Prize," he said.

"The fact that a lawyer has won this prize gives us hope that the judicial system will change its methods," he added, referring to the conservative-controlled judiciary in Iran.

Iran's embattled reformist camp was given a rare boost by the recognition of Ebadi.

"I hope the people who do not approve of her will now reconsider their position," said Sharbanou Amani, one of 13 women MPs in the Iranian parliament.

Third Muslim awardee

Ebadi is the third Muslim to win the prize. Yasser Arafat won the prize in 1994, sharing it with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. In 1978, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat shared the prize with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin for jointly negotiating peace between the two countries.

"As a lawyer, judge, lecturer, writer and activist, (Ebadi) has spoken out clearly and strongly in her country, Iran, far beyond its borders," the Norwegian Nobel Committee said in its citation.

It said Ebadi has stood up as a "sound professional, a courageous person, and has never heeded the threat to her own safety."

In a 1999 interview with Christian Science Monitor, Ebadi had said: "Any person who pursues human rights in Iran must live with fear from birth to death. But I have learned to overcome my fear." *AFP, Reuters, AP*

SHIRIN EBADI, Iran's first woman judge, was cited by the Nobel committee for her work in defending human rights, particularly that of women and children, and promoting democracy. REUTERS

AND the winner of the "Miss Condom Asia-Pacific" is Pairin Pongprasert, one of 20 contestants in a contest promoting AIDS awareness and safe sex in Thailand. REUTERS

Now, its . . .

From page A1

testants were a bevy of Thai bar girls, health officials and a transvestite. The pageant aims to promote safe sex in Thailand, a country on the frontline in the war against HIV/AIDS in Asia.

Instead of twirling batons or warbling show tunes, "Miss Condom" competitors wowed the judges with their condom-blowing prowess and knowledge about the virus, which has infected over seven million people across the region.

Held in a loud, sprawling entertainment block with bars named "G-Spot" and "Hollywood Strip," the pageant lured punters from as far away as Zimbabwe, the Philippines and Cambodia.

Blow job

Judged on their safe sex knowledge and on-stage poise, the contestants took turns on a makeshift stage dancing to Thai country tunes and blowing up condoms as a man wearing a green condom suit cavorted nearby.

A Zimbabwean health official, who bested her rivals in the condom-blowing contest, said events such as "Miss Condom" put Thailand ahead of other developing nations in AIDS prevention.

Sen. Mechai Viravaidya, known as "Mr. Condom" for his work in promoting AIDS awareness in Thailand, said the contestants understand condoms.

"They play with them and there's no value judgment," he said. "It's education plus entertainment."

Mechai said the 20-year-old contest helped remove the stigma of condom use in a nation still ruled by conservative social mores.

Learning from Thailand

Thailand is one of the region's rare success stories on HIV/AIDS. Infection rates have been falling after a campaign to promote condoms among commercial sex workers.

While infection rates are far lower in Asia than in southern Africa, the global epicenter of the disease, the Asia-Pacific region could account for 40 percent of new infections by 2010 if prevention efforts are not stepped up.

Josephine Moyo, who works for Partners Secretariat, a nongovernment organization in Bangladesh, believes the Thais are "very advanced" as far as the campaign against HIV/AIDS is concerned. "They've demonstrated leadership in this area. People should learn from Thailand."

Cops and rubbers

Mechai, known for 1990s campaigns such as "cops and rubbers," which involved police handing out condoms to drivers in traffic jams, said increased condom use reduced new infections in Thailand to 20,000 last year from 200,000 in 1991.

Praween Payapvipapong, vice president of the Population and Community Development Association, said campaigners usually targeted places with a high concentration of sex workers.

"Thai men don't like to use (condoms). They say it's not natural," said Praween. "So we ask women to help us. Either they ask their partner to use it, use a female condom, or reject sex."

This year's "Miss Condom" title—and a 1,000 baht ($25) cash prize—went to 20-year-old bar girl Pairin Pongprasert, who was crowned amid shouts and screams from her co-workers.

"I am very excited right now," she said, blinking as camera bulbs flashed. "I didn't expect to win."

Not everyone was elated. The only transvestite contestant, 27-year-old Lek, said she had been misled. *Reuters*

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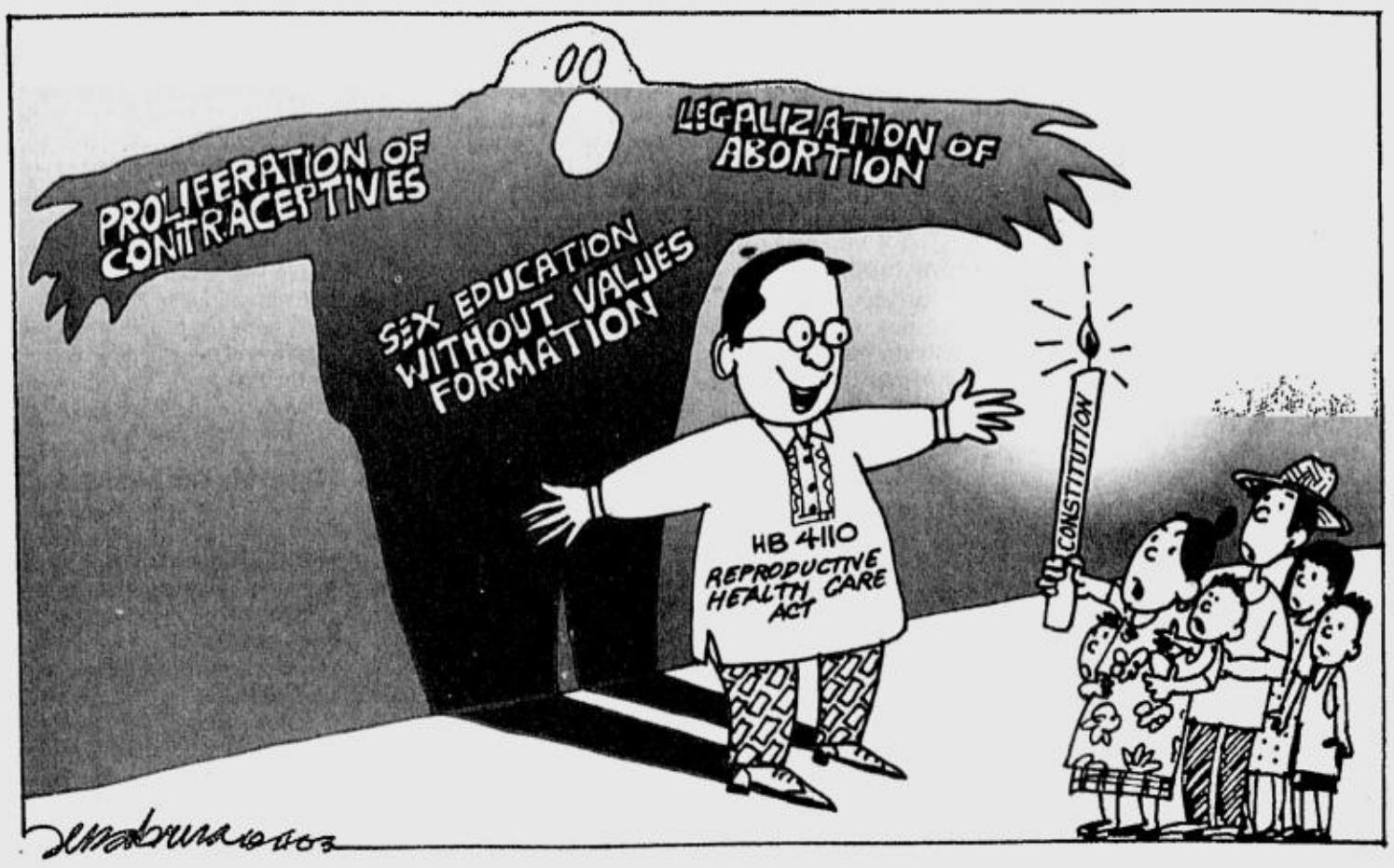

Back to reality

THE ACTION actor, Arnold Schwarzenegger, was elected governor of California last Tuesday. In a bizarre direct election process called "recall," the Austrian-born actor rode to the Sacramento state capitol on the wave of widespread discontent against the incumbent, Democrat Gray Davis.

More than half of Californians voted to remove Davis from office less than a year after he won a four-year term, putting him on record as the second American governor recalled from office since 1921. The recall opened the elections to a list of candidates for governor, including Schwarzenegger, in a direct election process untypical of America's electoral college method of electing presidents.

EDITORIAL

The actor polled less than a majority, with 47 percent of the vote, and his victory sent a chilling message to America's state or city executives that, through a popular initiative, they too could be removed from office for unsatisfactory performance.

It was the alarming state deficit and the economic woes that have battered California, including electricity blackouts, that doomed Davis. The election of an actor after the voters tossed out Davis was more of an expression of negative vote against Davis and a personal triumph for Schwarzenegger, who was portrayed in the press as an inexperienced newcomer who had no outstanding political experience.

The actor capitalized on his celebrity assets, and while he was charismatic as Davis was unexciting, he did acknowledge after winning, that he owed much of his victory to his celebrity wife, Maria Shriver, of the glamorous Kennedy clan.

"I know how many votes I got because of you," he said in a victory speech. Schwarzenegger owed his election less to policy or programs. He didn't offer any programs to solve the mounting state deficit and, during the campaign, he dodged press interviews. Even his vague campaign promises—including repealing high vehicle taxes and cutting other taxes—are now haunting him as he enters Sacramento. Spiking the taxes can only aggravate the deficits, illustrating the point that populist and celebrity politics and personal charisma may not work miracles to solve vexing economic problems, and that direct and populist democracy plants its own seeds of undermining rational solutions to such problems. Now with Davis having been dismissed by California's own version—albeit less rambunctious than the Filipino version of people power—California goes back to the reality that it takes more than glitter to get the state back on its feet.

The campaign centered more on the failings of Davis, rather on the smut that was generated by charges in the press over the actor's sexual misconducts associated with him. These charges surfaced late in the campaign and they did not appear to have a damaging impact on his electoral chances.

The campaign also exposed Schwarzenegger's admiration of Hitler, and during his younger days in his native Austria, he has admitted to playing Nazi marching music. Despite this right-wing inclination, he has emerged with hints of a social democrat and an affinity to the moderate side of the Republican Party. He has favored gun control laws and environmentalist issues, putting him outside the ribs of the hard-right wing conservatism of President George W. Bush.

The actor took California from the Democrats in a state with an economy larger than most European economies. California is one of the vote-heavy American states whose electoral votes are crucial to Bush in his campaign for reelection. Bush is not certain of winning the California votes although Schwarzenegger's election gives Bush a foothold in a Democratic bastion.

His election has been interpreted by many in the American press as a popular repudiation of "politics as usual" dominated by establishment forces and a triumph of populist politics that has asserted a direct power to change elected governments in mid-term when they are dissatisfied with them. In the California elections, signs have emerged of the destabilizing effects of populism.

Memories of my youth

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

TODAY is a special day for me and my family, but it's no big deal for the rest of the world. I'm turning 79, which simply means that I'm really old. I don't feel old, though, which is a blessing I truly appreciate. I thank God that although my hair is getting gray, my thoughts are not.

One thing I cannot deny is that, at this time in my life, I tend to look back rather than forward. That is no disgrace, of course. The future holds no particular fascination for me because I know I will not be there much longer to marvel at its inventions. Even now, the computer holds many mysteries I have yet to discover, if at all. More unbelievable innovations will only bewilder this primitive mind of mine.

By contrast, looking back is like smelling roses in December, as Sir James Barrie would put it. Reliving the past, if only in memory, is a rare pleasure the young cannot yet enjoy. They have to grow old first, like me, to savor the wistfulness of remembering.

How many times when on lazy summer afternoons or in the solitude and silence of the night, I travel back in time to remembered days.

Last month, I had the opportunity of meeting a classmate from high school after more than 60 years. He is Dr. Horacio R. Estrada, who married one of our classmates, the beautiful Rita Domingo, unfortunately long since deceased. Over lunch, we had a pleasurable hour recalling our classmates and teachers and the happy days we spent at the Mapa High School.

Many members of our class have gone to another world since our graduation in 1941, months before the outbreak of war in our country. The teachers have all probably passed away except, hopefully, one of my favorites, Mrs. Panalig R. Belmonte, who scribbled me a hello note at the INQUIRER some years ago. Horacio and I felt much closer than before as survivors, but perhaps not for long any more. He also turned 79 this week but he can take better care of himself because he's a doctor!

I go farther back and think of Sampaloc, Manila, where I was born and lived for all of 41 years before I transferred to my present residence. Sampaloc then was a sleepy, friendly place where everybody knew each other for many blocks around.

Manuel de la Fuente, who became mayor after serving as city councilor for many years, used to spend his leisure time on the streets in his *kamiseta* and long *kalsonsilyo* to discuss with friends the merits of fighting cocks and local politics. My father, after whom the street where we his children were all born, was not an aficionado but became a political kingpin himself.

It was at the Legarda Elementary School that I graduated (as so did my two brothers and three sisters), to go to high school after passing what was then called the "intelligence test" to determine our section assignment based on our ratings. Horacio and I remained in Section 1 up to our senior year. All students paid only a P2 matriculation fee and rented their textbooks at nominal cost.

During those times, we wore respectable attire—khaki pants and white long-sleeved or polo shirts for the boys and demure dresses (no jeans) for the girls. The male teachers came in coat and tie, the ladies in modest *vestidos*. The boys did not dye their hair and the girls used only powder—no rouge or lipstick. Drugs and even cigarettes were practically unknown and the favorite sport was baseball, not basketball. Coca Cola was usually for display only and the bottles gathered dust untouched. Except for the few who had cars, many of us walked to and from school and developed fast friendships along the way.

One thing we took for granted was the peace and order throughout the day and even at night. There were no rowdy ruffians to molest you, and most of the night all you could hear was the cries of peddlers of *balut* and *penoy*, which were available for a few centavos. The policeman on the beat was a respectable figure in his starched uniform topped by a helmet called the *bastipol* that was worn straight and never rakishly.

It was also in Sampaloc that I graduated from the MLQ School of Law, passed the bar examination in 1951, and got married the following year to Sally with whom I celebrated our golden wedding anniversary with a surprise party tendered by our children last year. All of them were born in that same district of Sampaloc except my daughter and *bunso*, who was made in Merville.

I went back to my native town after all these many years and was heartbroken. The place had completely changed. The little hamlet I had known in my youth was gone, replaced by a noisy commercial area congested with jeeps, awash in slime and smothered by smog. Gone were the leafy acacia trees that used to line the streets; so too were the humble *nipa* shacks where we and our neighbors lived before. The remnants of that lovely time had vanished.

The past is past, but there is quiet elation in its remembrance. That is the luxury I relish today, coupled with a reverent gratitude to God for making me still able to enjoy my memories at the ripe old age of 79.

Getting to know more about Roco

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

I HAD a most fascinating discussion with presidential aspirant Raul Roco a couple of nights ago—before the "Debate" show where he was put on the "hot seat," answering questions from the media and the audience. Unfortunately, none of the two things he talked to me about came out during the show—through no one's fault, I might add. So let me tell you about them—following the principle that the more we know about a person, the better basis we have for judging him.

Remember the nervous tic that Raul had in his right eye? It caused Miriam Defensor-Santiago to accuse him (Miriam has this dry, deadpan sense of humor that makes it difficult for some to realize when she is joking) of flirting with her or at the very least, winking at her (his joking response was that she merely wanted to make her husband jealous). Apparently, the tic was due to a medical condition that started sometime in 1989 and that doctors, here and abroad, had told him would grow progressively worse, unless he submitted to an operation. He refused (it would be too close to his brain, and he was afraid he would wake up "*bobo*"). I recall that before his TV appearances during the 1998 presidential campaign, his handlers would ask that the camera be focused on his left side, to minimize close-ups of his twitching right eye, which they thought would be very distracting to the viewer.

Well, while we were both being made up for the "Debate" show, I casually inquired whether he finally underwent the operation, because the condition was no longer apparent. And here is his story:

To unwind after the 1998 presidential elections, he and his wife Sonia joined a package tour to Europe that included Ephesus, in Turkey, where, tradition says, the Virgin Mary, lived with the apostle John after her own Son's death (Raul, ever conscious of lifestyle and image, quickly injects that the tour cost only $800 per person, all inclusive). When the tour reached Mary's home, the tourists busied themselves filling bottles with water from its well, which is reputed to have miraculous powers. Raul did not join that activity, but before they got back on the bus, Sonia urged him to go back and wash his eyes with the water—which he dutifully did.

It was not until two days later that he called Sonia's attention at dinnertime to the fact that for the past two days, his eye no longer had its nervous tic (she was so used to the tic, I guess, that she no longer noticed it). And it has not reappeared since.

"Uncanny," was the word he used to describe the experience, not quite able to bring himself to call it a miracle. Whether this reaction is typically male or typically suspicious lawyer who insists on a rational explanation, I cannot say. All I know is that Sonia must see it, as any woman would, as the miracle that it is. This is not to say that Raul was not grateful—he admitted at my prodding that he did give thanks on bended knees. But he has told very few people about this experience—he told me only because I asked a direct question. Why not? I asked. It seems he wants to cover all his bases: if the tic should come back, his opponents might claim it is divine wrath at work.

How's that for a personal glimpse of a presidential wannabe, arising from a casual question?

Here is what I consider another fascinating glimpse of Raul Roco. Given the media attention to the Supreme Court's final decision that the Kuratong Baleleng case be reopened at the RTC level, I asked him if he had anything to say about it, involving as it did another presidential aspirant.

It turns out that Roco was the chair of the Senate's Justice Committee, which investigated the incident immediately after it occurred. He told me that, in his opinion, also reflected in the committee report, the Kuratong Baleleng incident was definitely a rub-out, and not a shoot-out, as Sen. Panfilo Lacson and his colleagues claimed. The physical evidence was compelling: the victims' hands had either been cuffed or tied, as shown by the abrasion marks; the bullet holes indicated that all shots had been fired into the van, none were shot out of it; there were no powder burns on the victims' hands. The committee report recommended that charges of homicide or murder be filed against Lacson, et al.

Roco recounted that it was Eduardo de los Reyes who called him up, asking for his help—and it was Jewel Canson, together with Reyes, who voluntarily submitted themselves to Roco's committee for investigation. Just before the hearing, Reyes asked Roco what to do, fearful because "*baka ipayari nila ako*." Roco's answer: tell the truth, and you will be like a cat who even if thrown up, will land on its feet.

Roco also recounted how Canson broke out into a very obvious sweat when Reyes started to testify. He also recalled that Lacson made himself scarce for the first four days of the investigation, and when he finally appeared, he refused to answer questions, invoking his right against self-incrimination NINE times during his testimony.

What is worthy to note is not what Roco did about all this information, but what he did NOT do. It is the usual practice for politicians to try to get into the news by riding on the topic of the day. Yet Roco, whose role in the proceedings should have given him legitimate claim to media attention on the matter (heaven knows he needs the exposure)—chose not to make political hay out of it.

Does that make him a wise man, or a fool?

'Divine intervention'?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IF the recent Sandiganbayan decision ordering the lifting of the sequestration of the 20 percent shares of San Miguel Corp. purportedly owned by Eduardo Cojuangco suffers a credibility problem, as Sen. Joker Arroyo has asserted, it's because of the poor timing. The Nationalist People's Coalition that Cojuangco founded, despite the noise it's making about his running, obviously won't field him for health and poor ratings reasons. But just the same, the Sandiganbayan's recent order is perceived as an accommodation by the Palace, in return for his support in the 2004 elections. The Palace stoutly denies it has influenced the graft court, and in fact there may be no connection, as that court has behaved in ways counter to the administration's interest in the past; but the timing is quite unfortunate.

* * *

For one thing, the Sandiganbayan itself has scheduled a hearing on the issue of Cojuangco's ownership of the 20 percent on Oct. 21, just two weeks from last Tuesday; thus, the issue of sequestration is just a side issue which can be resolved once the ownership issue is resolved. Why couldn't the court have waited until then? Then too, its justification—that the writs of sequestration were signed by only one PCGG commissioner, in violation of the "2-Commissioner rule" and that there are allegedly no extensive discussions in the PCGG meetings' minutes in 1986 that showed prima facie basis for sequestration—is weak. The Supreme Court has already ruled that writs issued by the PCGG before April 11, 1986 are valid even with only one commissioner signing. Moreover, of the more than 26 million SMC shares sequestered in 1986, more than 90 percent—or more than 25 million shares—were covered by writs of sequestration issued before that date. Then too, in those early weeks after the Edsa Revolution, the PCGG did not even have a permanent office or rules of procedures; moreover, it was heroically trying to prevent more than 200 defendants involved with the Marcos regime from hiding or transferring billions of pesos worth of assets. Naturally the writs were issued after actual PCGG meetings and deliberations were held. More on this issue later.

* * *

Last April when the SC handed down its original 10-4-1 decision ordering Quezon City RTC Branch 81 to reopen the Kuratong Baleleng case with Sen. Panfilo Lacson as principal co-accused, it was Chief Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño who protested the remanding of the case to Judge Teresa Yadao. She had inherited Branch 81 from Judge Wenceslao Agnir after he was promoted to the Court of Appeals by former President Estrada. Agnir won the KB case in 1995 through a raffle, but he eventually threw it out for lack of evidence after several witnesses either recanted or disappeared, and families of the complainants filed a motion of desistance. It may be unfair to Agnir but the perception was that he was rewarded by Estrada for throwing out the KB case involving his PNP Chief Panfilo Lacson. On the other hand, Zuño's apprehension was said to stem from the fact that Yadao was reportedly recommended to that sala by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and Erap brother-in-law Raul de Guzman. And judging from the behavior of other recommendees such as Comelec Commissioner Luz Tancangco, Zuño might have ground to be nervous.

* * *

Finally decided last Oct. 7 to deny Lacson's motion for reconsideration on the reopening of the KB case, it specifically ordered in a footnote that it be raffled among six QC RTC branches that are "heinous crimes courts," namely Branches 76, 86. 95, 102, 203 and 219; not included was Branch 81, which the SC did not consider such. The SC was obviously going by its Administrative Order 104-96 of 1996, which ruled that all heinous crimes (those punishable by reclusion perpetua and/or death) be assigned to specially designated "heinous crimes courts" (other courts created in each jurisdiction were the "family courts," tax courts, etc.). The question is, if Branch 81 is not a "heinous crimes court," why was it included in the raffle? Was it a mistake of the QC RTC as it was using an old list? Or a deliberate move?

Lawyer Arno Sanidad, who represents the complainants' families, also criticized the way the raffle was done, noting that the KB case was perfunctorily included with three other cases in one single turn of the raffle wheel. He asserted that the very fact that it merited a specific directive from the high court meant that it should have had its own turn at the wheel—*hindi isinama sa iisang ikot lang*. One observer familiar with raffling also opined that the wheel can be manipulated through the use of weights.

* * *

The curious thing is that Lacson's lawyers loudly protested the SC decision to raffle the KB case, and they tried to stop it up to the last minute. In fact they immediately filed with the SC a "motion for partial reconsideration" just to protest the raffle (later they called it merely a "motion for clarification"). But after Yadao bagged the case, Lacson's lawyers suddenly went ecstatic, with Rufus Rodriguez calling it "divine intervention" and Sigfrid Fortun labeling it "poetic justice." But the problem is that their ecstasy merely confirms the perception that they expect Yadao to rule on the KB case the way they want it.

The lady judge has to realize, however, that she is under very close scrutiny from various lawyers' and law student' groups. They expect her to handle the KB case with cold impartiality. But perhaps it is fortuitous that Yadao is handling the case for she is already quite familiar with it, having inherited it from Judge Agnir; thus, she is expected not to delay issuing the warrant for Lacson's arrest if she is to appear impartial.

What might have been

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BANGKOK—In the mid-1970s, recalls Thai Sen. Malinee Sukavejworakit, she came to visit the Philippines to observe and learn from our family planning program. At that time a doctor connected with Thailand's Ministry of Health, she was sent on a study and observation tour that centered on the successful implementation of the Philippine government's population program by the Commission on Population.

The irony of her story is not lost on the Filipinos to whom she tells it. For Thailand today is a story of "what-might-have-been" for the Philippines. At the time of Senator Malinee's visit, the Philippines and Thailand were viewed as "twins" within the region, roughly on par on most indices—with about the same population size and similar rates of economic growth. In fact, at the time the Philippines was even slightly ahead in terms of productivity and national income. But that was then.

Today, Thailand has about 20 million less people than the Philippines. It has half of our population growth rate and enjoys double our economic growth rate. A recent study conducted by economists connected with the University of the Philippines shows that had the Philippines followed Thailand's population growth curve, the average yearly per capita income in the Year 2000 would have been $4,839 instead of just over $3,000. In other words, the average Filipino of working age would have been earning around $900 more in that year.

Today, after serving for over three decades in the Ministry of Health, Senator Malinee is the chief advisor of the Senate Standing Committee on Public Health, and chaired the International Scientific Steering Committee of the just-concluded Second Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health.

Not everything is hunky-dory in Thailand, of course, for with the rest of the region, it is grappling with issues of health, sexuality, sexual exploitation and unsafe sex practices that affect, change and destroy the lives of men, women and children.

* * *

THAT'S the reason for the holding of this second regional conference: to allow for the sharing of experiences and lessons learned not just across national boundaries but also across disciplines and areas of study and work, across genders, ages, civil status, health status, faiths and affinities.

If there was a clear "lesson" amid the myriad of topics covered in the plenaries, parallel and satellite sessions, poster presentations and even in conversations between the more formal sharings, it was that in the area of sex and reproduction, we can no longer speak in terms of clear divisions and dichotomies, absolutes and sureties.

"Ambivalence" is a word that applies not just to sexual orientation and behavior, but also to the way people identify themselves and relate to each other, as well as to the way governments seek to respond to their citizens' sexual and reproductive health needs and rights, and to the people's reactions to state interventions.

Women living with HIV/AIDS decried ways by which government interferes in their lives, from mandatory testing without adequate counseling to coerced abortions, while declaring that they are "key" to a more effective response to AIDS, "provided we are treated with respect and dignity."

At the plenary session on "Sexuality – Meanings, Values and Behavior," the speakers (including INQUIRER columnist Michael Tan) highlighted the diverse nature of sexualities, agreeing that while sexual orientations across the continuum between "male" and "female" have emerged and been recognized, health services, as well as laws, remain rooted in the male-female dichotomy.

* * *

WHILE other presenters at the workshop on trafficking traced the various hotspots in the cross-border trade in women and children across the region, Philippine researcher Aida Santos opened a new area of study on the migrant experience. While many studies have been conducted on the extent of migration among Filipinos, including mechanisms of recruitment and smuggling and motivations for leaving, Santos said "sexuality remains a largely unexamined area of investigation vis-à-vis mobility and migration."

Based on interviews with seamen and women migrant workers, Santos spoke of what she termed "shifting sexuality" among them, how living and working abroad tends to "liberate" individuals from the repressive culture-bound sexual norms, such that they feel free to behave in ways they would not even dare to at home.

Among such behaviors: seafarers using Caucasian prostitutes for "wild" sex while searching out Filipino entertainers when in need of "comforting"; and domestic workers entering into intimate relationships with other women (which brings with it the added advantage of protection against pregnancy) to stave off loneliness, but reverting to heterosexual relationships, sometimes with their estranged husbands, once they go back home.

* * *

AT THE end of the conference, the more than 1,500 delegates issued a "Call for Action" that challenged governments, international donor agencies, United Nations bodies and the NGO community to respond to different areas of concern, including: declining standards of services due to changing economic policies and health sector reforms; cross-border migration and risky situations especially of women and children; narrowing restrictions on reproductive rights and choices; high rates of maternal mortality, unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortion; and the rapid increase of HIV/AIDS infections and the inadequate measures undertaken by governments.

Governments and society urgently need to act on these and other sexual and reproductive health issues, for denial and self-imposed ignorance can only result in unnecessary tragedy.

Those Dominican friars

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

HAD there been PR practitioners back in 1896-98 the Dominicans and the Augustinians might have resorted to them for damage control. Certainly their public image was in trouble and they were taking a beating. They were just lucky there was no TV and therefore no CNN or BBC. Unfortunately, once Madison Avenue got into the act there was no hope. They didn't have the savvy to counteract what is known by some as "La Leyenda Negra (the Black Legend)." Aside from the oldest university in Asia (older than Harvard even) and the hundreds of books published by its presses, there are other debts we owe the Dominicans which are unacknowledged.

It is no secret among lovers of stone and mortar that some of the most beautiful of temples built for the glory of God were those of Pangasinan. Whether they were aesthetically more pleasing than those built by the Jesuits in Bohol or Samar may be a question of taste and does not mean one is better than the other. Before some well-meaning (this is charity) diocesan priest got it into his head to renovate Binmaley (which could only have been described once as "breathtaking") or the interior of the church at Bolinao for example, these were certainly works not only of art but of love. You have to compare the Jesuit Loboc, of course, and Guian, Samar whose exterior is unprepossessing but the shell art within is certainly worth the nine-hour bumpy trip. (Don't the congressmen of that benighted place have any development funds for roads?)

If the Augustinians had their "Angels in Stone," the Dominicans created "Angels in Clay." All over Cagayan are remains of ovens where friars taught the converts to fire bricks. Even one in the wilds of a mountain town called Quezon across the Cagayan River can still be seen. Dupaz (1773) in Nueva Vizcaya is also worth a side trip on your way to Sagada or Banaue. ...is church is particularly well known for the two great carved pillars supporting the choir loft that greet the eye as one enters the church. These may or may not have been colorfully painted once but are now white. Do not look for images of ivory or baroque carvings not even of its original patron saints as it seems the poor church was a favorite of thieves way back.

Perhaps people in those days didn't have name brands to show off their wealth and being religiously inclined as well wanted to replace their old wood and bamboo places of worship for stone edifices that would express their wealth and of course, be a more elegant expression of religious sentiment. Also, the convert population had grown by the 18th century and needed larger space. While Tumauini church "outdid all the rest in ornateness and profusion of its decoration," it is really curious why the caretakers allowed the dispersal (this is politeness) of its images and the general deterioration of the surroundings. Certainly it is one of the landmarks of Cagayan and something worth being proud of unlike the despoliation of their forests.

While it is true that the chalice in the Last Supper was not of gold, in an imperial age only the best of the earth's resources was good enough for God's temple. At one point, antique stores were filled with altar fronts (frontal) of embossed silver and altar vessels of silver and gold. Liturgical vestments resembled Matador capes embroidered in gold and silver thread. People really believed that God deserved nothing less than the best which was also the reason why churchgoers who could afford it went in their so-called "Sunday best" and not in shorts, sandos and rubber slippers.

Certainly these objects of art, like those in the Vatican, deserve a special museum which was planned for in the ruins of the Jesuit church of San Ignacio in Intramuros nearly 30 decades ago. Naturally neither Congress nor the Senate has seen the validity or the importance of such a project having other concerns and priorities in mind, like elections for example.

If we believe in their sincerity and not that they were bludgeoned into it by evil friars, our ancestors believed that saints were intercessors before God and thus towns, churches and persons were named after these Christian heroes who had triumphed over the World, the Flesh and the Devil. It is understandable then why the great *retablos* in churches with their myriad images expressed concretely the belief in their intercession and honored them with the best resources available. Thus, Dominican churches usually had statues of San Vicente Ferrer, St. Dominic, St. Catherine of Siena and the usual St. Joseph, the Evangelists and images of the Holy Week observance. Collectors have since enjoyed the richness of this heritage; it is a pity though that the items in collections seldom have provenance so that their history can no longer be traced.

Aside from those marvelous architectural treasures as well as the Marian images, especially of Our Lady of the Rosary (the province of the Order of Preachers in the P.I. was called Provincia del Santisimo Rosario), we owe the Dominicans the devotion to the rosary whose great pre-war procession of La Naval in Intramuros has now passed into the stuff of legends. All Dominican-built churches displayed an image of the Santo Rosario with the Child Jesus and usually with St. Dominic and St. Catherine of Siena at their feet. Many of them have lost their ivory hands and faces but those that remain are still objects of pilgrimages like Our Lady of Manaoag and Piat.

Coins

YOUNG BLOOD

Amando Virgil D. Ligutan

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I WAS on my way to Ayala Center to watch the newest action movie one hot afternoon here in Cebu. It was a typical ride and there were the usual sights—wildly swerving jeepneys, and the one I was in was no exception; traffic officials on the look out for unruly drivers, but obviously failing to notice any; sidewalk vendors encroaching on to the streets with their goods; skinny newspaper boys who should be studying in school rather than eking out a living in the street jungle; and ubiquitous beggars of various ages, some with babies in their arms.

As the jeepney I was in stopped at a red light, a blind man in his 50s felt his way, using his hands for his eyes, toward us, and stopped at our vehicle's entrance. "*Kaloy-i ang usa ka butang pobre, nangayo ug hinabang sa inyo mga bulahan sa kinabuhi* (Have pity on a poor, blind beggar like me, asking help from you fortunate ones)," he pleaded with this very familiar line. The passengers acted their usual: most (including me, at first) not minding him at all, and some content at merely throwing him cold glances. He pleaded once more, this time louder, and I checked my pocket for a coin. There were two, a peso and a five. Instinctively, I chose the peso and handed it to him. As the coin touched his right palm, he extended his gratitude to the "kindest" person (that was me, who, by the way, gave the smallest amount) in the jeepney, just as the traffic light was turning green. He then hurriedly moved to the sidewalk to wait for the next red light—and kind individual. I thought beggars would be lucky to meet a hundred—or even a half of that number—of such kind creatures in a day.

Upon reaching Ayala Center, I checked the movie schedule and found I still had a few minutes to while away before the start. So I decided to take a stroll around the mall, watching people. It struck me how starkly different were the denizens of the street jungle from those in the posh shopping center. For one, there were no impoverished blind beggars there, only an abundance of fair-skinned *chinitas*.

At the heart of Ayala Center Cebu, there is a huge wishing well, about two-story high, the calming sound of its flowing water adding to the comfort the mall offers. Being a "wishful" people, Cebuanos throw into this wishing well a myriad of coins for whatever dreams they can think of in the grandest or most trivial fashion. I went to the second floor for a better view of the well and from there I saw the coins upon coins upon coins—one-peso coins, five-peso coins, ten-peso coins—glittering from its bosom.

As I looked at the coins, it occurred to me that were they given to beggars and street children they could have meant tummies filled, even if only for a day or two. I thought how unjust that these coins would lie idle at the bottom of a wishing well instead of being used to buy food for the hungry.

The philosopher John Rawls proposes a theory of social justice that I think our poverty-stricken society would do well to consider. He says that in the distribution of social goods, every citizen should take the "veil of ignorance," that is, operate as free and rational persons with all factors of inequality terminated. In this "original position" nobody is rich or poor; thus, the distribution of social goods is just because everybody "agrees to an initial situation that is fair." In this original position, no one would agree to an unfair distribution of social goods because everyone knows that all need these goods.

Now to the question: would all the people be willing to take the original position? For sure the marginalized would, but the "fortunate ones" assured of comfort over a hundredfold lifetime would disagree. And this is this "disagreement" that ensures the perpetual penury of marginalized people, like the blind beggar I encountered that afternoon.

My teacher in Social Philosophy, Dr. Rosario Espina, introduced me to the idea of the modifiable social arrangement, which says that our society is not in a fixed and unalterable set-up. But it is a set-up to which all of us are indirectly responsible. According to this idea, an individual is continually relating with other men in society, and this interaction helps him define himself. On the other hand, in defining himself he is contributing to the continuous formation of society that ought to guarantee the self-development of other people. In other words, an individual is not a discrete or atomic unit in society; rather (s)he is a person that indirectly contributes to the self-development of other people. Therefore, although how uncomfortable it may sound, all of us are indirectly responsible for the plight of the marginalized people, beggars, street children, etc.

I believe that the primal reason why so many of us are indifferent to this issue is our prevalent atomic concept of ourselves. Many of us believe that people are only responsible for certain people. Such thought misses the social dimension of our being as individuals. Social interactions either promote or limit the things we have, the dreams we aspire, and most especially our sense of self. We would not have our opportunities and our most priceless possessions had it not been because of the labor, sacrifice and influence of other people. Therefore, by our inaction, we are all indirectly responsible for the poverty of other people. We have to realize that our society, where many are poor, is a modifiable social arrangement to which all efforts of every individual count.

Fr. Heinz Kulueke, SVD, my German philosophy teacher, is an individual who is perfectly aware and concerned of the miserable plight of the poor people in the streets. More significantly, he is the teacher who first taught me the importance of asking questions in a society full of things to be asked. It is very important that everyone should have critical eyes to what is happening in our midst—escalating poverty, widespread corruption in government, and the indifference of most people, which I think is the worst of all factors that lead to the miserable plight of most Filipinos. We really need to ask the question, "Why the poor are poor?" And we don't need widely publicized coup d'etat attempts by idealistic young officers to remind us of the dire need for such a question. Just by looking around the modifiable social arrangement with open and critical eyes, one could realize that indeed there is a silent and far more genuine coup d'etat by the poor people, namely the beggars, street children, etc., that needs to be addressed immediately more than anything else, not only by the government but by all Filipinos.

Amando Virgil D. Ligutan, 20, is a Philosophy graduate of the University of San Carlos in Cebu City.

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The National Association of Philippine Newspapers

Meralco refunds being done as efficiently as possible

ALLOW us to respond to the comments made by the unidentified letter writer in the letter entitled "Consumer audit team for power rate charges." (PDI, 9/25/03)

All the charges reflected in all our customers' bills pass through the scrutiny of the regulatory body, the Energy Regulatory Board then and the Energy Regulatory Commission now. All the items in the electric bill have been duly approved by the commission and we cannot impose charges without its approval.

On the refund implementation, we made it (refund process) as efficiently as possible not for self-glorification but as a service to all our customers. The majority of our employees volunteered notwithstanding the extra hours of work without compensation, just to assist our customers during the refund implementation.

We would also like to emphasize to the letter sender and your readers that there was never any intention on our part to mislead the public. Those who appeared in our television advertisements were real and actual testimonies from real customers who were very glad to get their refund without difficulty and inconvenience, but more important is that it provided financial assistance to them during their time of need. Their testimonials were real life experiences which they shared with us and which our company in turn shared with all our customers through the television advertisements. We find nothing wrong in telling and sharing the truth.

We wish to emphasize too, that the main purpose of the television advertisements is to inform our customers on our refund implementation in the hope that the information will cut across all segments of our customer base. If by providing this service, we disturbed your letters sender's sensibilities, then we take full responsibility for our action. This will not deter us, however, from undertaking our primordial commitment to serve our customers to the best of our abilities and good intentions.

Lastly, on the statement implying that we overcharged our customers the amount we are now refunding, we would like to categorically state that this is absolutely untrue. To refresh the memory of your letter sender, allow me to further state the following facts.

We were granted by the ERB a provisional authority to raise our rates in February 1994.

However, the ERB reversed itself in a 1998 ruling. This prompted us to elevate the matter to the Court of Appeals, which upheld our company's position. Unfortunately the recent Supreme Court ruling did not see the validity of our position, hence, the refund order. We would rather not delve into whether the decision was fair or not although recent pronouncements from noted business analysts and groups have stated that this decision was one of the reasons why prospective investors in the energy industry are wary of putting up new investments in the country.

This sequence of events will prove once and for all that there indeed was no overcharging.

—LEONARDO V. MABALE,
head, Refund Management Task Force, Meralco,
Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City

No malice

I WOULD like to clarify some matters that were written about me in the column of Recah Trinidad on Sept. 24, 2003.

I sent press releases to other publications from Sept. 17 to 20. I sent these while I was in Malaysia for the World Bowling Championships. Official results and articles could also be found at www.bowlingworldchampionship2003.com.

The article referred to in another paper was lifted from that website with some parts taken from the articles I sent.

For the record, I am not officially affiliated with any publication in the Philippines. I contribute articles but I am not employed by any publication. Therefore, I had no intention to single out the INQUIRER. This especially since I have met and known Al Mendoza during the Asian Games in Busan where I served as the technical delegate for bowling. Not to mention that my own office has a delivery of the INQUIRER every day.

As secretary general of the Philippine Bowling Congress, I would like to maintain a good relationship with the press, including your publication. If the articles sent were not received by your good office, then I would like to apologize for that error. I have sent them in good faith and had no malicious intent on my part.

Hoping for your continued support for the Philippine Bowling Congress.

—DANNY SANTOS,
secretary general,
Philippine Bowling Congress,
PSC Bowling Center,
Rizal Memorial Sports Complex,
Malate, Manila

Abominable leakages

WHAT transpired in the latest bar examinations should be cause for alarm. That an exam to test the competency of would-be lawyers should be turned into a contest among law schools as to which of them gets the most leakages in examination questions is abominable.

Law schools that have hitherto been looked up to as the breeding ground for future leaders of the nation have become a breeding ground for cheats. Something must be done to put a stop to this.

It is not enough that the results of the exam in Mercantile Law were nullified. The Supreme Court must not stop there. Rather, it must order the conduct of an in-depth inquiry so that whoever was responsible for the leakage may be meted out the appropriate penalty. And censure the law schools that benefited from it.

—PURA FERRER-CALLEJA,
Unit C Bartolazo Bldg.,
800 Rizal Blvd., Malusak,
Sta. Rosa, Laguna

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Disappointing media coverage

I'M so upset with our media giving so much importance to the Kris Aquino and Joey Marquez breakup—90 percent of the news alloted to such nonsense story of two controversial individuals. Journalists and media practitioners should restudy, reclarify, reevaluate their role in Philippine society.

The Philippine media are becoming show-biz fanatics, investing so much time on foreign *telenovelas* which could pass for "fairy tales" with no connection at all to Filipino values and giving so much advertisements to foreign artists, never mind if we do not understand their simplest songs. We are becoming a nation of "parrots." Media should live up to the public expectation—as the eyes and ears of society.

—BIMBOO LABRADORES,
bimbolabs@yahoo.com

General's position mandated by law

I AM writing this letter in response to an article titled, "Too many generals very costly," which was published in your Sept. 29 issue.

Republic Act 9188 forms the legal basis for the recent promotion of a number of generals in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The law is known as the act strengthening the professionalism in the AFP by increasing the percentage distribution of general/flag officers in the AFP Table of Organization amending for this purpose RA 8186. The law was enacted by Congress last July 22, 2002.

Before its enactment, a law is expected to have undergone serious deliberations in Congress.

However, in order to put things in a more simplified manner, let it be known that the law simply increases the quota for generals commensurate to the key positions by which they should be occupied by a star-rank officer. In the past, many AFP senior officers occupied positions intended for generals but were not promoted due to quota restrictions. Notably, no additional general's position was created as an effect of the increase in quota.

We hope this letter will clarify the matter and enlighten your readers.

—LT. COL. DANIEL A. LUCERO, PA
chief, Public Information Office,
Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Another towing experience

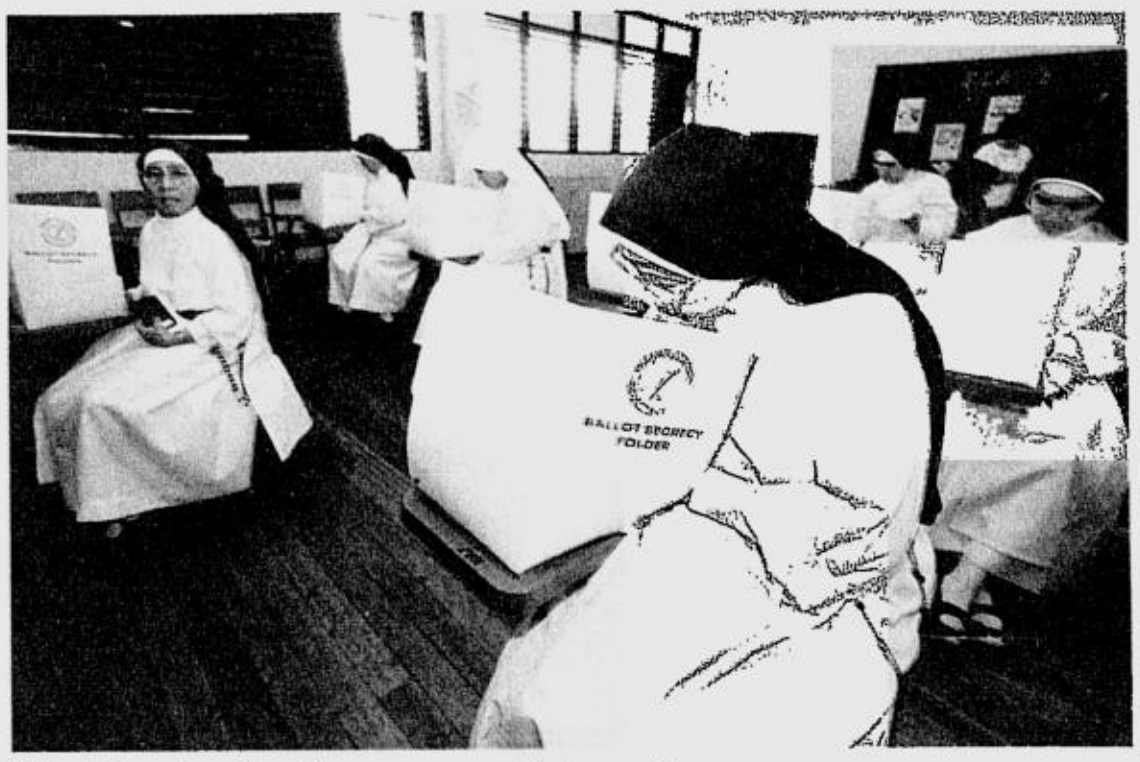
THIS is yet another experience with unfair towing practices in Metro Manila. Since June this year, I have been going to the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) Office along NIA Road conducting a training-workshop program. Last Sept. 4, I went to the NIA and since the parking area inside the NIA compound was already full, I parked at the NIA Road in front of the NIA security booth.

When I left the NIA at 11 a.m., I could no longer find my car. The NIA security told me that the Island Towing Service towed my car. I went straight to Island Towing at its Commonwealth Avenue impoundment and, as expected, I could not reason out with the towing people and had to pay up P1,500 to retrieve my car. I was told that Colonel Valoria, a traffic police chief at Camp Caringal, ordered the towing.

The next day, I went to see Valoria to ask why my car was towed when the NIA Road does not have no parking signs, or tow-away zone signs, or yellow or red paints on the roadside to indicate no parking. All he could tell me was that two days earlier, the NIA Road was classified a "complain area." Valoria was nice to me and in fact told me that he would try to ask for a refund. I never heard from him after that.

The point of my complaint is why the city government or police tow away vehicles on roads where no "no parking" or tow-away zone signs are displayed. If the government wants this NIA Road to be a no parking zone, it must put up no parking signs or paint the roadside yellow or red to indicate no parking. It cannot just arbitrarily and suddenly make roads tow-away zones. The towing operations are big business so perhaps these towing companies can subsidize the putting up of no parking signs. Unless there is another motivation for not doing so, that is, it is better if there are no signs so that anywhere or anytime they feel like it, they can tow for the money.

—GLEN TABIOS,
gtabios@up.edu.ph



The Beatitudes for responsible voting

HAPPY are the corrupt candidates for they shall buy the votes they need;

But blessed are the honest for they shall surely acquire the loyalty of others whom money cannot buy.

Happy are the voters who sell their votes for they shall amass the money they need;

But blessed are the virtuous for they shall uphold a dignity for which there is no price tag.

Happy are the advocates of violence in the polls for they shall sow intimidation, retaliation and fear;

But blessed are the peacemakers for they shall spread serenity, unity and joy.

Happy are the voters who would vote in fear due to guns and goons for they shall feel safe from coercion;

But blessed are those who are ready to die for the integrity of the ballot for they are the true patriots of our time.

Happy are the candidates who hide behind popularity and fame for they shall be publicly known;

But blessed are the silent workers of true performance for in humility they come to serve and not to be served.

Happy are the voters who are seduced by the glitter of public icons and personalities for they shall feel part of the vogue;

But Blessed are the wise electorate for truth shall guide them through the maze of deception.

Happy are the power-hungry for they aspire to be masked in power and authority;

But blessed are the service-oriented for they shall be respected for who they are and not by the position they shall hold.

Happy are the voters for payoff, personality and patronage for they shall be materially compensated;

But blessed are the responsible electorate for they shall harvest the true fruits of good governance.

—BRO. CLIFFORD T. SORITA,
secretary general,
Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting,
PPCRV National Office, Pope Pius XII Catholic Center,
UN Avenue, Manila

Paging the EEC

MY appeal for permanent total disability benefit claim under Presidential Decree 626 was endorsed/forwarded by the Social Security System in its letter of March 28, 2003 to the Employees Compensation Commission. Six months have elapsed and I don't know what happened to my claim. According to the rules of adjudicating EC claims, the commission shall promulgate a ruling/decision on said claims within 20 days from the date of submission (meaning of all requirements).

Pursuant to Sec. 5 (a) of Republic Act 6713, Code of Conduct of Public Officers and Employees, requests and claim shall be acted upon within 15 days from date of receipt and inform the claimant what action was done on the claim.

Premises considered, I request the ECC to resolve and decide on my claim for permanent total disability under PD 626 soonest.

—JULIO M. MAGAWAY,
66 Lote Road, Central, 2301 San Miguel, Tarlac

CONGRATS!

FIRST IT QUIZ BEE

Champion
TIP(Manila)

Leif Syril Pagunsan
Emmanuel Lobrino

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

• PUP (2nd Place) • UE (3rd Place) • TIP Manila • SSC •

IIEE 17TH REGIONAL QUIZ SHOW

Champion
TIP(Manila)
Andre Villanueva
Lawrence Torres
Bernard Perez
Rudnel Ruanto

2nd Runner Up
TIP (Q.C.)
Herman Timoteo
Edciel Ebuen
Wiliard Pelayo
Reynaldo Frias

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

• UP (Diliman) (1st Runner up) • PLM (3rd Runner Up) • UST (4th Runner Up)
• TIP Mla • TIP Q.C. • CCP • AdU • MIT •
• RTU • PUP • TUP Mla • MLQU • UE • NEW ERA •

1ST PSME INTER-UNIVERSITY QUIZ CHALLENGE

2nd PLACE
TIP(Manila)
Roderick Madrid
Michael Venturero
Anthoniel Napi
Adrian Raganit
Jerry Izon

PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS

• Bulacan State University (1st place) • TIP (Mla.) • PUP Taguig (3rd Place)
• UE (Caloocan) • TIP (Q.C.) • MIT • Lyceum (Mla.) • UP (Diliman) •
• PLM • NEU • DLSU • MLQU • UPHR (Calamba) •
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GSIS chief heeds summon to Palace to explain mess

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) president and general manager Winston Garcia is scheduled to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo to explain about what is going on in his office that has been rocked with complaints.

Garcia told radio station dyLA yesterday that the President asked his father, Gov. Pablo Garcia to let him report to her in Malacañang on Oct. 14.

Ms Macapagal and the governor talked during the President's visit here on Thursday.

After his father told him that the President wanted to talk to him on Tuesday, Garcia said he immediately called up Presidential Chief of Staff Rigoberto Tiglao to arrange for a power point presentation on the real situation of the GSIS and to explain also the rationale of the computerization program.

"We have prepared our presentation since last week but we were not able to do it because the President was busy," he said.

Garcia said he also asked Tiglao to arrange for Commission on Audit (COA) chair Guillermo Carrague to attend the meeting so Carrague could attest to his presentation.

He said COA had issued a report that the GSIS was not mismanaged.

GMA reaction

The President told a news conference that she would ask Garcia to explain his side after thousands of government workers in the country protested at their local GSIS offices against the delay in the processing of their loans.

They also demanded Garcia's resignation for allegedly mismanaging the pension fund.

Garcia said he was ready to vacate his post if asked by Ms Macapagal because he is working under the pleasure of the President.

He denied that the pension fund was in financial strait because the GSIS has a bank deposit of about P16 billion.

He, however, admitted that the growing amount of receivables of the GSIS was affecting the processing of the members' benefits.

Garcia had started going around the Visayas to explain about the reasons for the delay of the processing of the loans. He met with about 400 government workers in Cebu yesterday.

But during his briefing in Tacloban City, Leyte on Thursday, Garcia faced about 300 "angry" government workers coming from different agencies.

"I am sorry. But before you strike us ... before you crucify us, please hear us out," he told the crowd.

Hate mail

Garcia admitted that he had been bombarded with inquiries and hate calls and text messages for five months due to the delay in the releases of the GSIS members' loan applications.

He explained that the delay was due to the computerization program that he initiated in order to determine immediately which agency has been remiss of its GSIS contributions.

When he assumed office more than two years ago, he said he noticed that many government agencies were not remitting the contributions of their members.

The unremitted premiums reached P35 billion, he said.

"If we are not to initiate reforms, the GSIS will sink just like a ship. The GSIS is saddled with financial problems. We have to stop this before it becomes too late. We ask for your cooperation and understanding," he said.

"I am sorry. I have to admit that we are inefficient in doing our work. But please understand us," he said, pointing out that the GSIS lacked personnel.

But starting this October, Garcia said he directed his personnel to speed up the processing of all loans and benefits.

Garcia said that starting next week, all GSIS members can avail themselves of P10,000 in "emergency release assistance," payable in 24 months with 10 percent interest.

This, however, failed to soften the government workers.

"We are demanding for his immediate resignation," said Susan Cordano, president of the Government Association of Tacloban Employees.

DepEd won't take blame for delay in benefits, loans of gov't workers

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—The Department of Education owes the Government Service Insurance System only P800 million in unremitted premium obligations, education officials here said on Thursday.

But they said GSIS Chair Winston Garcia broke an agreement not to make the DepEd debts public until they could reconcile their differences.

Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus said Garcia's accusations made light of a DepEd offer in July for both agencies to resolve these debts.

Garcia was provoked by a national protest rally this week into accusing the national government and several line agencies of failing to update their mandated insurance premiums which date back to 1997.

De Jesus said DepEd was specifically incriminated because "it is the largest government agency to date with 5,100 personnel."

But after the Wednesday nationwide protest rally organized by the Confederation for Unity, Recognition and Advancement of Government Employees (Courage) "had besieged Garcia, he is now asking us to come to the negotiating table and work these issues out," said Education Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luna.

Garcia and De Jesus agreed to settle the debt issues after a Sept. 9 meeting, but Garcia reneged on this commitment, Luna said.

He said DepEd had outstanding "underpayments" of about P1.2 billion covering 1997 and 1998. The lapse occurred when the GSIS law was passed, raising insurance premiums from 9 percent to 12 percent, he said.

The P1.2 billion represents the 3 percent difference covering the increase in rates, which was not released because it was not included in that year's General Appropriations Act, Luna said.

De Jesus, however, said Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin has refused to acknowledge these debts. "She told me it is simply impossible to pay for these when there was no money," De Jesus said.

Luna said DepEd had receipts that showed premium underpayment of only P800 million from 1999 to 2001. "The teachers are fully paid up in 2002 and 2003," he said.

But GSIS had asked DepEd to pay P5.8 billion.

Education execs urge poll body, gov't to spare teachers in 2004

BAGUIO CITY—Department of Education officials renewed their call on Thursday for the government to remove public schoolteachers from poll duties in the 2004 elections, saying that the election computerization program might have rendered the teachers' services inutile.

Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, who closed this year's Educators' Congress at Teachers' Camp here, said Congress is sitting on several measures that already seek to withdraw teachers from their elections duties.

The Congressional Commission on Education that reviewed the country's education system in 1991 already concluded that teachers have no place in election activities, De Jesus said.

"It would take a law to excuse teachers from poll duties," he said. "There are advocacies . . . but it is not up to us (to push for the exemption of teachers in seasonal poll duties)."

The teachers' clamor may be another reason to reinforce the lobby for constitutional change, said Armando Velasco, Cordillera director of the Commission on Elections.

Mandated

Both the 1987 Constitution and the Comelec Code mandate that teachers compose or head the board of elections in every precinct, he said.

"Every election period, the Comelec board *en banc* issues a resolution deputizing teachers to conduct the elections," he said.

The Comelec computerization program will not free teachers from poll duties but it will likely increase the efficiency of counting the ballots, Velasco said.

He said teachers may still be needed to supervise the counting of ballots, during which most cheating in elections take place.

"It (the computerized vote machine) is not high-tech enough to transmit the same ballots to a central electoral machine . . . like in other countries. We do not push a button and get that vote counted," he said.

He said the new counting machines, which are issued to each town with 20,000 voters, are equivalent to the checking machines used for the National College Entrance Examinations, which was discontinued in 1992.

"We will still need teachers to open the election precincts at 7 in the morning, issue the ballots, gather the finished ballots, and account for these ballots when these are transmitted to a centralized booth where the new machines will be located," Velasco said.

Less duties

He said the counting machines reduced the teachers' election duties by one-third. The allowances due to each teacher will not be reduced despite an anticipated lighter election duty, he said.

He said the program requires each town to have a counting machine but a recent Comelec memorandum sets a cap of 20,000 voters for a precinct cluster to receive the machine. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

400 Air Force men sacked for drug use

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—More than 400 airmen have been dismissed from the service for drug use since 1996, Philippine Air Force chief Lt. Gen. Nestor Santillan said.

Not one, however, was proven involved in the trade of illegal drugs, he said after Friday's launch of a renewed campaign here at the Air Force City, which hosts three-fourths of the PAF units.

Santillan, who said he began the campaign as PAF's intelligence chief then, clarified that the dependence on illegal substances, mainly shabu (metamphetamine hydrochloride) was never duty-related.

"They acquired (the addiction) through peers and association with civilians," he said, adding that they comprised less than 1 percent of the 16,000-member Air Force.

The scourge, he added, had not penetrated deeply into the organization.

Farming was one of the preventive activities the host unit 600th Air Base Wing introduced to its troops in this 315-hectare camp.

Idle lands, spanning an initial five hectares, have been planted to sweet potato, vegetables and fruits trees, wing commander Brig. Gen. Charles Hotchkiss said.

The farm gives short-term agricultural training to airmen and their families.

The PAF's continued use and improvement of a sizable land here drew flak during the Estrada administration.

The Macapagal administration had not revived the plan to force troops out of here and order them to return to Basa Air Base. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Ilonggo folk poem brings on stage Filipinos' woes

ONE of the Balangiga bells. PDI FILE

Mystery ends in search for 'third bell'

By Rolando O. Borrinaga
Balangiga, Eastern Samar

BABY Anna Belle Couttie was born in Subic on Balangiga Encounter Day Sept. 28 last year. Two Sundays ago, she spent her first birthday with her parents, Bob and Mercy Couttie, and family friends in Balangiga, a town in Eastern Samar that would always be associated with her name.

The "Anna" in her name is the shortened version of the name of Casiana Nacionales, the heroine of Balangiga during the attack of native fighters on an American garrison in the town during the Philippine-American War a century ago.

The "Belle" rings bells, of course, and our party to the Balangiga anniversary this year considers the baby the "fourth bell" of the town.

Bob, a Subic-based British screenwriter and video director married to a Filipina, and I, both founding members of the Balangiga Research Group (BRG) were in Balangiga when Anna Belle was born.

At the time, we were facilitating the coverage of the anniversary activities by British Broadcasting Corp.'s Radio 4 Station. The documentary was broadcast in November last year and the program may still be heard when downloaded from the BBC website.

New guests

This time, we had two other guests. The more important one was Dr. Robert Kim Combs, the division historian of the 2nd US Infantry Division stationed in South Korea, the mother unit of Company C of the 9th US Infantry Regiment that was attacked in Balangiga in 1901.

We had mistaken Combs for a sergeant because the BRG had dealt with a sergeant, another person, in our attempt to verify the existence of a "third bell."

It turned out Combs is a civilian defense employee who is also a museum curator for the military division he was with. He is the official custodian of the Balangiga bell in Korea.

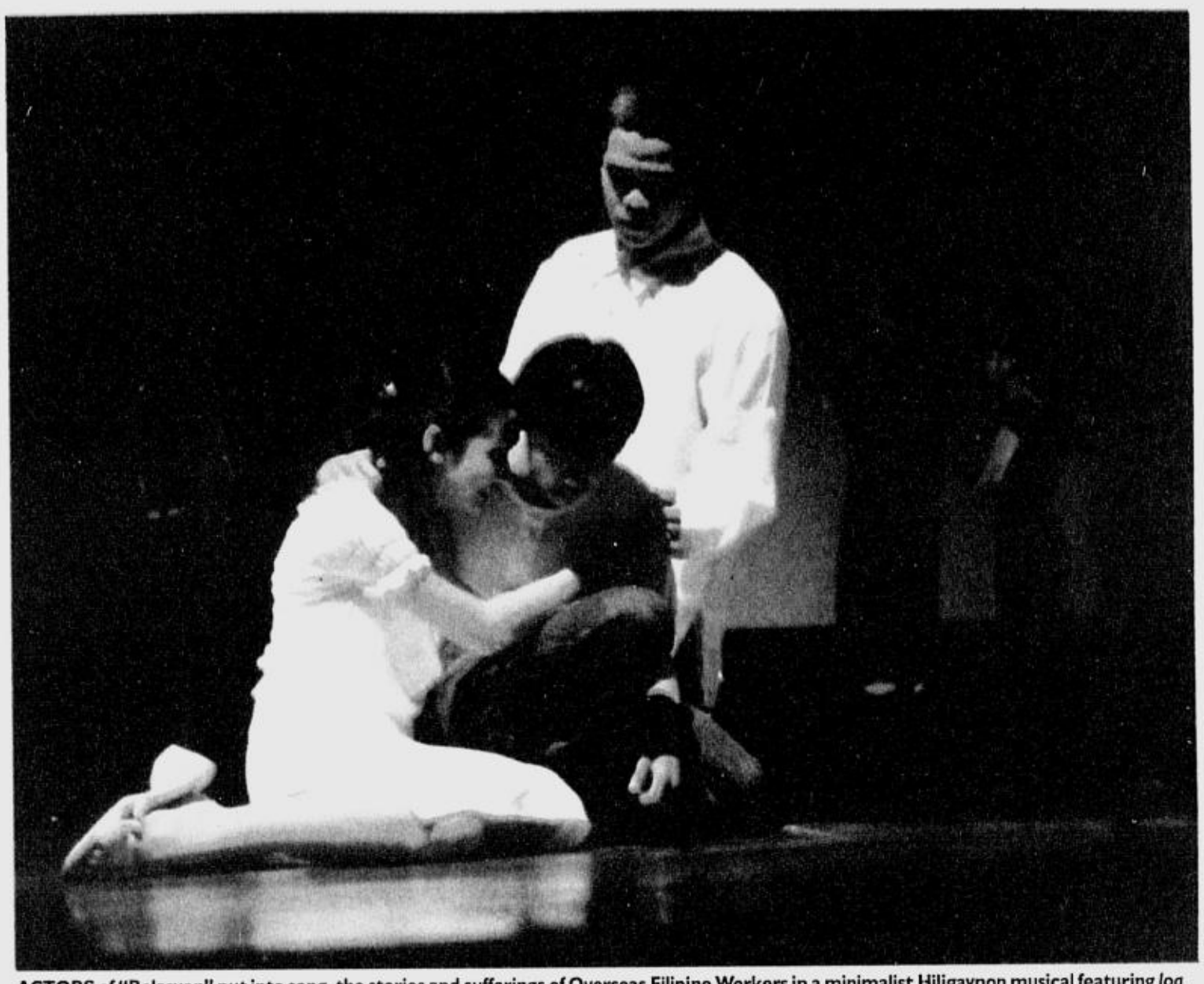
Combs said the US Army hierarchy now fully supports the repatriation of the two Balangiga bells displayed at the F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming, to the town where they rightfully belong.

"Unlike the bell in Korea, which is a revered relic and has become part of the ceremonies and tradition of the 9th US Infantry Regiment for over a century now, the two bells which were abandoned by an Army unit in Wyoming are not part of US Air Force history," he said.

The other unannounced guest was Jack Silberman, a Canada-based American and a documentary filmmaker.

His films have won more than 45 Canadian and international awards.

He joined our party to conduct research and observe the commemorative activities for a documentary film about the Balangiga story and the bells that he will shoot next year.



ACTORS of "Belasyon" put into song, the stories and sufferings of Overseas Filipino Workers in a minimalist Hiligaynon musical featuring *loa* or Ilonggo folk poetry sung in extended wakes. JOHN MICHAEL P. AVELINO

By Hazel P. Villa
Iloilo City

"I believe the whole Philippines is grieving for what is happening to our country—the sad plight of the overseas Filipino workers, the Abu Sayyaf, a president like Erap, etc.—and we are in a state of constant waking for our dead dreams and dying country."

Playwright and Palanca Award winner John Iremil Teodoro was explaining the leitmotif for the first Visayan composition-based musical integrating the *loa*, or funny and sometimes lewd Ilonggo folk poetry which is sung during extended wakes after the dead is buried.

The unique use of the *loa*, timely theme and minimalist presentation of a complex musical called "Belasyon (Wake)" won for the University of San Agustin a slot in one of three West Visayan performances to be shown in the Department of Tourism's "Best of the Best" in Intramuros, Manila at 10 a.m. today.

On Oct. 16, an evening performance will be held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Little Theater.

> 'In spite of the loss, we Filipinos can still afford to laugh because laughter ... is the thing that makes us endure ... national tragedies...'

"Belasyon," 29-year-old Teodoro's full-length musical in Hiligaynon that runs for almost an hour, starts with the news of the death of a domestic helper named Luna in Singapore. Luna was a former teacher in their barangay who was forced to abandon the "noblest profession" because her salary always arrived late and was never enough for her growing family back home.

The arrival of Luna's coffin with the attendant hysterics—so typical a scene in Philippine airports—put to public attention the grief of her family, parents, husband and children.

Her former lover, the landed Congressman Salvador who parted with her on a sour note because his parents did not approve of their relationship, comes to the Belasyon. He and Luna's husband comfort each other and come to terms with their own relationships with the dead woman.

Cast in black

Dressed in black, the actors and actresses moved the audience's attention with their powerful singing of the *loa* and the effective use of production devices, such as huge butterflies to signify impending grief and candles in glasses for the vigil, supported by dramatic stage lighting.

According to Teodoro, "Belasyon" is based on a real news story about a domestic helper who allegedly committed suicide in Singapore by jumping from the 25th floor of the building where she was working.

Director Edward Divinagracia said he found it challenging to stage a Hiligaynon musical from the point of view of a dead person telling her life story made more complex by the demands of the *loa* that follows a set form with four lines and does away with the typical storytelling structure, which is linear.

Several brainstorming sessions with his brother Eric, Teodoro and members of the production staff resulted in the use of flashbacks to tell the story and the compelling performance of songs, such as "Pamuno (The Beginning)" and "Ako si Luna (I am Luna)."

"Belasyon" had 14 *loa* and several *kundiman* pieces that the university's band director, Maestro Nelson Checa, put into music, recalling the songs of old that he had heard during his elementary days.

"The music is really good," said freelance writer and former stage actor Edwin Alcozero after watching a special performance on Sept. 16, 2003 at the University of San Agustin. "Belasyon" ran on Sept. 17-19.

Dr. Amorita C. Rabuco, university professor and author of the book, "Folk Poetry: The Loa" said the *loa* was performed during a *belasyon* (extended wake after a burial) in far-flung villages in Western Visayas. It was intended not only to comfort the grief stricken but to provide a means of socialization for young men and women who meet during the occasion and are paired for such games as the *bordon, arte-artehan, lantoy* and *pinggan-pinggan*.

> '... we sentimental Filipinos cannot imagine having fun right after a loved one is buried ...'

Despite the familiar theme, executive producers Eric Divinagracia and the Rev. Jose Rene Delariarte said the performance in Intramuros would have English or Filipino subtitles on a screen so the audience would understand the lyrics of the *loa*.

Coping mechanism

The actual *belasyon* is ironical because we sentimental Filipinos cannot imagine having fun right after a loved one is buried.

But that is exactly what some Ilonggos did several centuries ago until the tradition was practically wiped out, except in some southwest Iloilo towns such as Oton and Leon. *Mahjong, tong-its* and other card games replaced the *loa* and it is timely for the University of San Agustin to have caught the dying embers of this tradition before it became totally extinct.

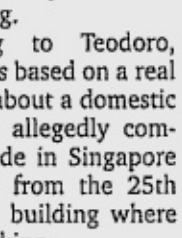
The staging of "Belasyon" is outstanding because it heightened empathy for the OFWs and the sad situation of the country through an effective and never-before-seen performance of one of the region's least recognized literary forms.

"*Belasyon* is a coping mechanism. It is by playing and reciting funny and lewd *loa* during wakes that grieving families forget their pain for a while. In spite of the loss, we Filipinos can still afford to laugh because laughter, indeed, is the thing that makes us endure the national tragedies we are experiencing," said Teodoro.

NBI's fall guy?

BACOLOD EXCHANGE

Ninfa R. Leonarda



IT'S supposed to be MassKara season in Bacolod City, but the festive mood was strained by recent and ongoing events that have been mystifying residents.

The recent disappearance of a former barangay chair, together with two visitors from Mindanao, and the discovery of their bodies in different coastal towns was only one of them.

Barangay chair Eleuterio Salabas was found to have debts to the local casino, but others speculated that the killing was drug-related.

The drug angle was dismissed by the police and NBI.

News of the arrest of a city police officer, noted for his relentless campaign against drugs, by the NBI for the murders reverberated like thunder in the city. People were puzzled.

Witnesses earlier said that the vehicle of Salabas had been abandoned in Guihulngan town in Negros Occidental where it was later recovered. They also said three men had been seen aboard it earlier. The NBI produced sketches but nobody could be identified from them.

Someone called up a radio station claiming to be privy to the killings and named Senior Insp. Clarence Dongail, the No. 1 nemesis of local drug lords, as one of the 15 involved. Pouncing on this, the NBI sought a warrant of arrest from a Guihulngan court and arrested Dongail in Bacolod.

Another sketch cropped up after Dongail's photo was published in local papers. This time, the sketched face resembled his.

Local NBI head Celso Estorga has been explaining himself vigorously, but it seems nobody believes the justifications.

Coincidentally, Dongail had just sealed off Bacolod Barangay 2, known as hub of illegal drug operations in the city. The move was largely intended to prevent the entry of drugs during the MassKara Festival.

Further, Dongail told media that the vehicles used by the supposed "NBI assets" during his arrest were owned by a local drug-dealing clan.

* * *

AT CITY Hall, Mayor Luzviminda Valdez's festival mood must also be dampened by the surfacing of two charges filed against her in Malacañang that she has been required to answer. One came from a local businessman whose property she had declared a public nuisance for allegedly blocking a village drainage and causing floods. The act was, however, not sanctioned by the Sanggunian, and the owner pounced on that.

Members of the city council, with whom there is no love lost for the mayor, also filed a complaint at Malacañang for her alleged solicitation for a project called "Kapestahan sa Baybay." Their evidence was a letter to prospective donors with instructions to issue checks in her name. They cited the Local Government Code, the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, Civil Service Laws, and many other regulations they claim she had violated.

The MassKara Foundation Inc., the group handling the festival, is also being hounded by the council for entering into a memorandum of agreement with ABS-CBN, claiming that it had been entrusted the project by the mayor. The foundation has so far avoided furnishing the city councilors with a copy of the agreement.

Councilor Archie Baribar said the foundation must be hiding something and his group in the Sanggunian obviously thinks the same way.

* * *

AT THE height of the complaints and issues being raised against the manner in which the registration and revalidation of voters is being conducted, the Commission on Elections announced a reshuffling of election officers.

The news was welcomed by Bacoleños, most of whom, with the exception probably of the sitting mayor, are not quite convinced of the impartiality of the incumbent Comelec officer.

As for Negros Occidental, officials are wary about the regard for them of President Macapagal-Arroyo when the province was the only one from Western Visayas that did not have a streamer declaring support for her at the recent "Pasundayag," a Department of Tourism affair in Intramuros, Manila.

Even media people from Bacolod felt they were snubbed by the President during the affair.

An apologetic Gov. Joseph Marañon said they had no streamer because they had thought the celebration was only a tourism "WOW" affair, although it was held on the day the President had announced her change of heart regarding 2004.

Brit off hook on exploiting children raps

ANGELES CITY—The child exploitation case against a Briton, who allegedly owns and manages three bars that employed minors, has been dismissed by the city's prosecutor's office for lack of evidence.

The name of Richard Agnew did not appear in several business documents as owner or stockholder of companies operating the Blue Nile, Misty's Bar and Nero's Bar, all on Fields Avenue here, according to special counsel Oliver Garcia.

"There is also no proof presented that there has been any transfer of ownership of the stocks of the corporations," Garcia said in a nine-page decision dated Oct. 3 and released on Thursday.

The co-respondents of Agnew in the case, identified as Estela Tarafe, Rose Rodis, Zenaida Mascarinas, Perla David and Nitz Zapata, were also cleared.

The sworn statements of four minors rescued by law enforcers and social welfare workers in August showed "no proof" that these five women were involved or participated in the hiring of the young girls.

Senior Insp. Myrna Latorre, according to Garcia, merely mentioned them as "mamasan" in the bars.

Garcia, however, recommended that Racquel Morales and Rio Gomez be charged with violating Republic Act 7610 (Special Protection of Children against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act).

According to him, two of the minors had "clearly established" in their sworn statements that Morales and Gomez had hired them as dancers without demanding for copies of birth certificates.

Latorre of the city police's women and children concerns desk did not reply to the counter-affidavits of the respondents, the special counsel said.

A source at the city prosecutor's office said the local police had been "bungling" on some cases involving foreigners in Angeles City.

Three rape complaints against Edward Barry Edwards, also a Briton, had been dismissed in September, also for lack of evidence. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Victor in land case murdered

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A tribal leader who won a protracted legal battle over the ownership of a 923-hectare land was killed in an ambush here Tuesday.

Rolando Paglangan, a *lumad* leader who succeeded in reclaiming land from the Alcantara family, was on his way home to Sitio Lanton, Barangay Apopong in his gray Mazda pick-up when waylaid by four men.

After being hit, the victim lost control of the wheel and his car smashed into the fence of a house in Doña Soledad Subdivision Phase 2-A.

The suspects fired at the victim to make sure he was dead.

In 1990, Paglangan, Esmael Sabel and Lasid Acop sought before the Commission on Settlement of Land Problems (COSLAP) the cancellation of FLGLA No. 542 and the reversion of the 923 hectares to the B'laan and Maguindanaoan tribes.

The COSLAP cancelled FLGLA No. 542. The Alcantaras went to the Court of Appeals which junked the appeal on June 22, 2000.

The Alcantaras appealed to the Supreme Court but on July 20, 2001, the high tribunal ruled in favor of the tribe members. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

P140-M Ormoc water project hits snag

By Jani Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ORMOC CITY—The implementation of the multimillion-peso waterworks project here hit a snag after the city council rejected a resolution giving the mayor authority to enter into an agreement with the winning project consultant.

Mayor Carmelo Locsin on Wednesday said he might have to go to court to compel the city council to give him the authority to sign a contract with the consultant of the Comprehensive Waterworks Project worth P143 million.

"We may have to go to court as our last option," said an exasperated Locsin. At least 19,000 households stand to benefit the project.

During a session Sept. 25, the city council rejected the mayor's request to allow him to sign a contract with Asiatic Consultants and Associates (ACA), the project's consultant, which won the bidding for the detailed engineering design worth P12,732,962.

The City Council said the ACA failed to put up a performance security bond, which is a requirement under Republic Act 9184 or the Government Reform Procurement Act.

The consultant had sought an exemption to post a performance bond under Section 31 of Executive Order No. 40 of 2001.

Rafael Apostol, the ACA's managing partner, told the councilors that RA 9184 has no implementing rules and regulations yet. But the councilors pointed out that RA 9184 has already repealed EO No. 40.

Apostol assured the councilors that they would put up the necessary bonds. Still, the council denied the resolution.

Majority leader Nepomuceno Aparis expressed his resentment over the accusation that they were delaying the project.

He said to approve the resolution would mean violating the law.

But Locsin said they presented the performance bond after the session. He, however, claimed that Aparis argued that a law had already been violated and they did not want to be part of it.

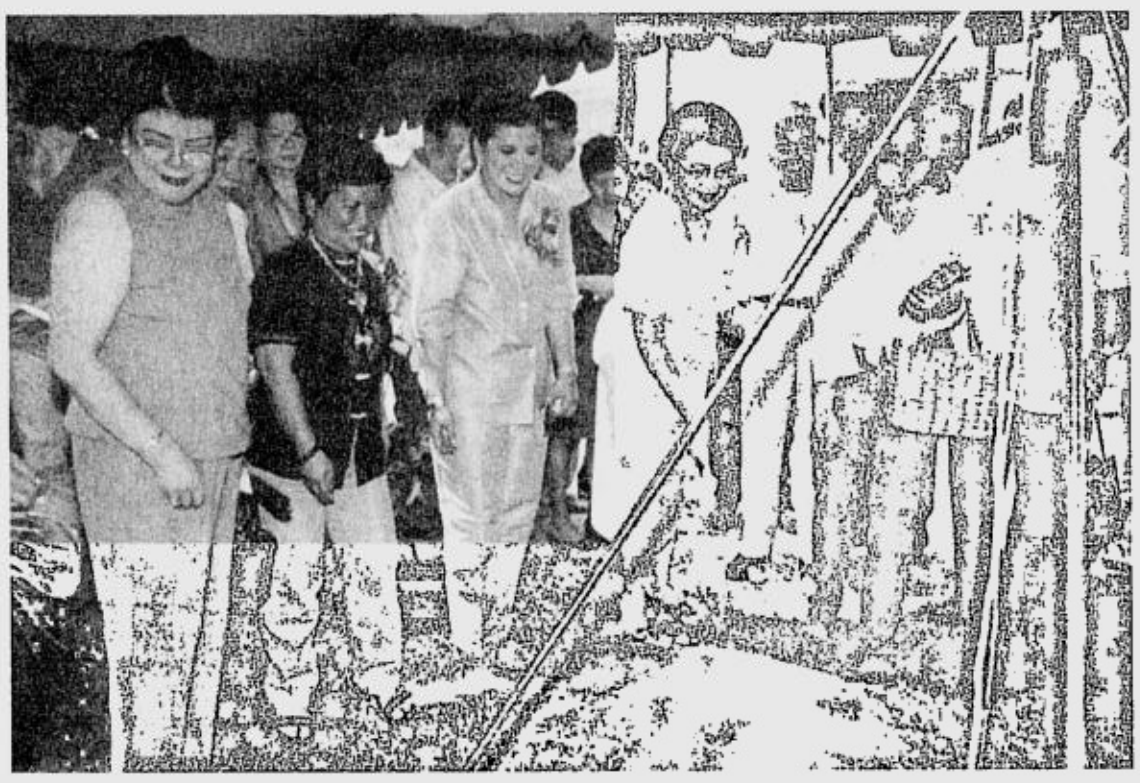
The mayor, however, believed that politics was the reason the resolution was denied. A majority of council members allied with Locsin's political opponent, Leyte Rep. Eufrocino Codilla.

"I could only think of political reasons why they would not give me authority to sign (a) contract with the consultants," he said.

Locsin said he could not understand why the resolution was denied because the city council had already approved the project, including the program of works.

PHOTOS FROM QPL AND CSFI

KID AGENDA
Children are the first visible victims of poverty, the ones who become symbols of famine, and firms or groups come to their aid when the opportunity comes. Children take meals (above) courtesy of a feeding program sponsored by the power firm Quezon Power (Phils.) Ltd. in Mauban, Quezon while in Tarlac City (below), ex-President Corazon Aquino, Ms Gina de Venecia and Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman lead groundbreaking rites for a haven for children funded by the Congressional Spouses Foundation Inc. (CSFI).



MILF member, mom slain in arrest raid

COTABATO CITY—A suspected Moro guerrilla leader and his mother were killed in a gunfight with policemen in Barangay Dado, Alamada, North Cotabato on Wednesday.

Alamada Mayor Ernesto Concepcion Thursday said Magkar Butig of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front was being arrested for multiple murder.

"Instead of surrendering, he (Butig) fired his gun toward the arresting officers," said Concepcion.

A suspected aide of the slain rebel leader who was armed with a rocket-propelled grenade rifle managed to escape.

Butig's mother, Patoh, was hit in the crossfire.

Concepcion said the suspected rebel leader and his mother died of a single gunshot wound each.

He said Butig was responsible for the massacre of four wild boar hunters in Alamada sometime last year and was involved in other crimes in North Cotabato.

Police recovered from the slain rebel commander an M203 assault rifle, several rounds of Armalite ammunition and a radio transceiver.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said there was no rebel leader in Alamada named Butig. *Rosa-May de Guzman and Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Economist says 'white elephants' products of industrialization bid

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—Free trade advocate Bernardo Villegas on Wednesday slammed previous administrations' attempts at industrialization, saying these efforts produced nothing but white elephants.

Villegas, dean of Economics at the University of Asia and the Pacific, said the problems facing the Philippines today are a result of these faulty government economic policies going back some 30 years.

"For 30 years, our stupid economic policies of being completely infatuated with large-scale protected industries that victimized local consumers with very high prices and low quality," he said.

"We are not globally competitive. We put all our resources in Manila and we had no resource left for farm to market roads, post harvest facilities and irrigation systems," he added.

Villegas said the steel, cement and textile industries in the Philippines are dead.

"Exports are no longer the engine of growth," Villegas said, citing the example of the Asian tiger economies after the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

Data from the Asian Development Bank showed that Singapore registered a 2.4 percent growth rate in 2001 and 2.2 percent growth rate in 2002. The projected growth rate of Singapore in 2003 is 1.2 percent.

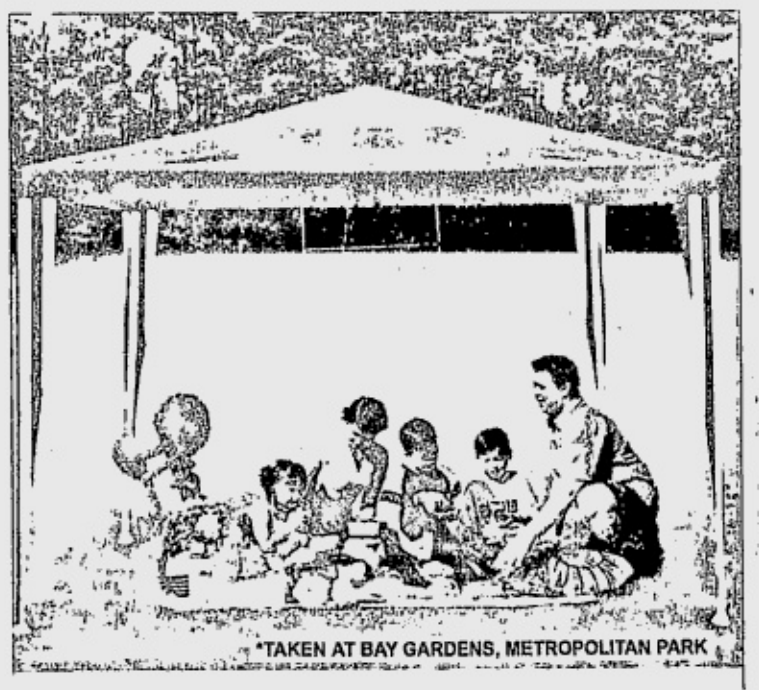
Taiwan posted a 2.2 percent growth rate in 2001, and 3.5 percent in 2002. For this year, the ADB projection is for Taiwan to grow at 2.5 percent.

In contrast, the Philippines led the other countries in Southeast Asia in 2001 by posting a 4.5 percent growth rate and a 4.4 percent growth rate in 2002.

For this year, projections for the Philippines are 3.8 percent. "But I can bet you that the figure for 2003 will be at least 4.5 because agriculture has been so good this year," he predicted.

Thailand, meanwhile, grew by only 1.9 percent in 2001 but surged to take the lead among its Southeast Asian neighbors by posting a 5.3 percent growth rate in 2002. Thailand is projected to attain a 4.5 percent growth in 2003.

Villegas said Thailand's growth resulted from strong agricultural interventions, mainly through the building of farm to market roads and post harvest facilities, which enabled farmers to earn more from their produce.



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Int'l sanctions for ecology crimes urged

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A Cagayan Valley lawmaker on Thursday urged environment groups here to push for the imposition of sanctions by the international community against countries that fail to curb crimes on the environment.

Quirino Rep. Junie Cua lamented that in the Philippines, "abusive practices" were being committed by environment personnel, but which, he said, apparently were being tolerated by the government.

"If we (in the international community) have agreements on the global fight against terrorism and trade, there could be no reason why we could not have agreements on environmental protection," he said.

On the other hand, countries that have "good records" on environmental programs could be given incentives such as funding assistance from foreign donors.

Cua made the proposal during the 2nd annual Sierra Madre stakeholders' conference here. The meeting was intended to pool efforts of government agencies and private organizations in addressing the threats confronting the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor (SMBC).

The SMBC, with an area of about 1.4 million hectares, is the largest protected area in the country that spans three regions and nine provinces—from the northeastern tip of Cagayan to the northern part of Quezon.

The corridor covers 400,000 hectares of tropical rainforest, about half of the total primary forests in the country, according to Conservation International (CI).

Cua said pressures from local population, as well as commercial exploitation, have continuously degraded the forest cover of SMBC.

"It has been observed that officials in charge use the issue of poverty to issue permits to cut trees from our forests despite objections from affected communities," Cua said. "The pill of corruption is often coated with a jar of political jargon."

Mariano Roy Duya, CI area manager, said that for the past 10 years, small-scale and commercial logging activities within SMBC have depleted the corridor's forest cover by more than 1,600 hectares.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

RP open target but we're ready–GMA

From page A1

the remarks of Hill that Manila with its Western-style clubs, discos, hotels and symbols of Western culture such as multinational businesses and fast-food outlets presented probably the "most target-rich environment in Southeast Asia" for terrorist operations by the JI.

While Australia and Southeast Asia remained targets, the group "could turn its attention more resolutely" to attacks in the Philippines, Hill told a security conference in Canberra on Thursday.

The Jemaah Islamiyah has been blamed for a string of terrorist strikes in Southeast Asia, including the Oct. 12 bombings in Bali that killed 202 people and the attack on the J.W. Marriott Hotel in Jakarta in August where 12 people died.

Many of JI's operations are believed to have been coordinated from the Philippines.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez reacted angrily to Hill's statement.

"Instead of Minister Hill giving a speech, he should have shared his information with us," he said.

Not specific threat

He said Hill's statements suggested a specific threat against the Philippines which he said "had no basis."

Golez insisted that there was no specific terrorist threat against the Philippines and that the country was constantly coordinating with intelligence agencies in and out of the region to monitor the movements of JI operatives.

Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. said the Australian government should show the basis of Hill's statements while insisting that the Australian official's information was "without basis."

"We will ask the Australian government, through proper diplomatic channels, to show the basis of Mr. Hill's statement," Lina said.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya said that while authorities have succeeded in preempting any terror plot against the country, the public should always be vigilant.

"We have done our best to improve the security against terrorism and we continue to do so, but again nobody and nobody can give a 100-percent guarantee," he told reporters.

Abaya also declined to confirm or deny persistent reports that a JI member had been captured in Cotabato saying he was waiting for an official report.

"I can't give additional details because I just heard it but did not get an official report. It will be too premature," he said.

Heaviest security blanket

Lt. Col. Daniel Lucero, the AFP's information officer, said the other day the military had intensified security at embassies, malls, hotels and other "soft targets" following fresh reports of a terror plot by the JI in Manila.

Lina said close to 10,000 policemen have been mobilized by the national police for the protection of Bush during his brief eight-hour visit. The security arrangements were being coordinated with the US Secret Service, he said.

At least one Manila-based foreign diplomat, however, said businessmen from his country feel quite safe doing business in the Philippines and would continue to come here.

British

British ambassador Paul Dimond said British firms were aware of terrorist threats not just in the Philippines but also in other parts of the world where there are "all sorts of risks."

"We are aware of the history of some of the peace and order problems of [the Philippines] but everybody is aware of that anyway," Dimond told reporters during a lunch for visiting UK Minister for Constitutional Affairs David Lammy.

"I would say that we certainly admire the resilience and determination of the Philippine government to tackle the problem of terrorism," Dimond said.

"I am pretty optimistic that we shall see continued flow of good business," he said, adding that based on his conversations with British businessmen many more were keen to come here.

The United Kingdom has been a significant investor in the Philippines over the past 10 years, investing $17.2 billion in that period. It accounts for 6 percent and 32 percent of total direct and portfolio investments in the country.

British exports to the Philippines in 2002 amounted to £353.9 million while imports from the Philippines amounted to £979.3 million.

But in his speech Lammy said terror threats persist in the Philippines, particularly from the JI and the Abu Sayyaf, and that "there is much still to be done".

The British travel advisory for the Philippines states that "there continue to be threats against Western interests and there is also a danger of collateral damage from terrorist attacks targeted at others."

It advised Britons to take particular care in Manila, throughout Palawan and at coastal resorts and tourist centers throughout the Philippines, and advised against all travel to central, southern and western Mindanao, to Basilan, Tawi-Tawi and the Sulu archipelago, "where the terrorist and kidnap threat is greatest."

NCR police director Reynaldo Velasco said said the "no permit-no rally-rule" would be strictly implemented' even as he stressed that law enforcers would observe maximum tolerance in dealing with protesters.

Velasco appealed to militant groups to police their own ranks and "accord the same respect for the rights of other citizens just as their rights to air their grievances is respected."

The NCR Regional Special Action Unit (RSAU) recently demonstrated its anti-terrorism capability at the NCRPO headquarters in Camp Bagong Diwa, Bicutan, Taguig.

Velasco said the RSAU, which was mainly trained to respond to terrorist attacks is also capable of providing preventive security and civil disturbance management. *With reports from Nelson Flores, Tarra Quismundo and Edson Castro Tandoc Jr.*

US Secret Service combs Batasan area

From page A1

Filipino counterparts.

So secret was the operation that a little after 11 a.m., police commandos securing the House barred arriving reporters and photographers from getting past the main gate of the complex.

The late arrivals were allowed entrance only after most of the Americans had left at about 12:30 p.m.

According to a Filipino official, some of the US security men literally counted the paces from the House rear entrance, where Bush is to enter, to the holding area, where he will spend time before proceeding to the session hall to deliver his speech.

A police officer said some practiced parking their vehicles outside the House.

Earlier, sources said the team conducted a walk-through of the first part of Bush's itinerary—from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Pasay City where Air Force One is tentatively set to land, to Rizal Park in Manila where Bush is to lay a wreath at the monument to the Philippines' national hero, and to Malacañang where he is to meet with President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The sources said that after inspecting the House, the team returned to Malacañang, where a state dinner is to be held for Bush, and then went back to the Naia.

The US Secret Service will be in charge of close-in security for Bush everywhere he goes, supported by the Presidential Security Group and a big team of military and police security personnel.

Cat and mouse

The four reporters had to play a game of cat and mouse to get a view of the House visitors.

After climbing up and down stairs from the North Lounge to the South Lounge, they caught up with the Americans and went on to mingle with Palace and PSG personnel accompanying the team.

At one point, Ronald Post, US Embassy counselor for public affairs, agreed to a quick briefing for House officials upon the urging of House media chief Noel Albario.

"We want to protect our President," Post said.

He spoke with House officials in the receiving room of the office of Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

Briefing the House press corps later, Post said the team was very satisfied with security and related preparations being undertaken by the Philippine government for Bush's visit.

Asked if they were confident that the American president would be safe, at least at the House, Post said: "Yes, he will be safe."

"We will have a very good visit at your House of democracy," he added.

Commenting on the nature of the US team's inspection, Albano said: "They had a walk-through, and it's going to be clockwork precision when President Bush arrives."

The other House officials who received the US team were Deputy Secretary Generals Artemio Adasa, Arlene Arnaldo and Ophelia Cruz, and Sergeant-at-Arms Bayani Fabic.

Facelift

US Secret Service agents and White House representatives have been regularly inspecting Malacañang, in and around which a beautification effort is being undertaken.

But officials said the effort was started long ago and was not intended only for the country's most important visitor.

The facelift includes the repainting and restoration of portions of the 86-year-old building, the restoration of the pink-marble fountain, and the planting of new gardens between the main building and the Premier Guest House and at the back of the Palace near the Pasig River.

Pressed for a figure, Ricardo Saludo, deputy spokesperson for the President, yesterday said the beautification would cost no more than a Huey helicopter.

A refurbished Huey helicopter is said to cost $1 million.

No-fly zone

According to House insiders, Air Force One will touch down at the Naia about noon of Oct. 18. It will be a no-fly zone the whole day for other airlines.

The schedule of the US president is a closely guarded secret, but the bare bones are allegedly these:

Bush will meet with US Embassy personnel and their families at the Naia. From there, he and his convoy will motor to Rizal Park, and then on to Malacañang for arrival honors including a 21-gun salute.

A one-on-one meeting between the two Presidents will follow, after which they will face the media to deliver their respective statements.

While the bilateral talks are going on, US First Lady Laura Bush will meet with selected schoolchildren at the Palace.

From Malacañang, Bush will proceed to the House to address the joint session of Congress.

After the Bush address, Speaker De Venecia and Senate President Franklin Drilon will conduct a joint press conference at the House.

Bush will return to Malacañang to rest. Several rooms have been reserved for his accommodation.

The state dinner is set to start at 6:30 p.m. Bush and his party will leave shortly afterwards for Singapore where they will stay the night en route to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Bangkok.

Party-list groups to wear peace ribbons

AKBAYAN Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales warned US President George W. Bush against abusing Filipino hospitality by imposing his agenda on the Philippine government.

Rosales said Bush and his Secret Service agents should respect the individual stand of lawmakers who would be present during his address.

A group of 20 lawmakers, some from party-list groups like Rosales and some from the opposition bloc, said they would pin "peace ribbons" on their chests to signify their stand against what they called the US global war policy.

Rosales said Bush and his security escorts should show proof that they would not ride roughshod over Filipino sensibilities. But she expressed satisfaction with the assurance of House leaders that security measures would be undertaken by the Philippine government agencies concerned.

Lea Salonga told not to sing for Bush

PARTY-LIST lawmaker Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran appealed to Filipino performer Lea Salonga to show her patriotism by backing out of her assignment to sing for US President George W. Bush at the Malacañang state dinner.

Beltran said Salonga, now a US resident, should be made aware of the strong protest against Bush both in the United States and in the Philippines, so she could take a stand both as an artist and a Filipino.

"Ms Salonga is a much respected and emulated Filipino artist," Beltran said. "She is known locally and internationally, and her music has touched many. We appeal to her sense of patriotism and justice and ask her to change her mind about singing for George Bush, who represents the most exploitative and oppressive government in the entire world."

Recto: It was just . . .

From page A1

ing on board a yacht owned by a friend last Friday. The six-hour cruise was along the western part of Batangas, including the exclusive Punta Fuego resort, the senator said.

He said he took the trip because it was the last weekend before Congress resumes its sessions.

On that trip, Recto said, he was in the company of around nine people, including friends and "friends of friends."

"My wife knows about the trip and knows who I was with," the senator said.

Movie watching

Recto also denied that the cruise lasted two days, or till Saturday. On that day, Oct. 5, he, his wife, seven-year-old son Ryan and nephews and other kids went to watch the movie "Sinbad" at the Rockwell Mall in Makati City.

He called the INQUIRER report "judgmental" and "unfair," because the account of his yacht trip was included with an account on the controversial "Report-A-Mistress" campaign by the party-list group Citizens Battle Against Corruption (Cibac).

"If you read the article as one it's so judgmental," Recto said.

Included in the story the other day, as part of what in the news industry is called a wrap-up, was a report on Cibac's submission of its list of public officials allegedly keeping mistresses.

Recto said the report was certainly something that his wife would not welcome.

"It's negative publicity and puts my family in an embarrassing light," he said. "Don't feast on it," he added.

No gimmicks

Meanwhile, House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla and Cibac Rep. Kim Bernardo-Lokin called on public officials to stay away from highly suspicious "gimmicks" if they did not want to be dragged into controversies.

Cibac the other day submitted to the Department of Justice the first list of 20 public officials who were the subject of complaints.

Lokin refused to reveal their identities until charges were filed against them before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Lokin, however, refused to say whether Recto was included on the list. She said Cibac would not give any specifics of the information filed with the DOJ, including the identities of the persons involved.

But Lokin assured Recto that the report about Recto's weekend cruise with a GRO did not come from Cibac. "I assure Senator Recto that if there is any effort to discredit him, Cibac is not part of it," Lokin said.

"We in Cibac conduct our own investigation with utmost confidentiality because we want to protect the identities of the complainant and the person being complained of to prevent unnecessary abuse and trial by publicity," she stressed.

Lokin said that Justice Simeon Datumanong has formed a special panel headed by Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida. Datumanong said secret agents will be fielded to verify the documents and pictures on Cibac's list.

Padilla lauded the efforts of Cibac in helping the government weed out graft and corruption.

"It's a good effort, and they are doing it discreetly, which is good. If you are a public official, the public will do everything to exact absolute transparency from you. If you become a political animal, you should expect the prying eyes of the public you serve," Padilla pointed out.

Yesterday, Calida said the National Bureau of Investigation will help look into around 300 cases of public officials who allegedly have mistresses.

He said NBI agents would be tasked to validate the allegations against the suspected government officers, many of whom are in the police force or in the military. *With a report from Philip Tubeza*

Pangilinan: After Danding, is deal with Erap next?

From page A1

the former President, currently being heard by a special division of the anti-graft court.

Pangilinan urged public vigilance as he underscored the need for an investigation into the circumstances behind the antigraft court ruling.

The chair of the NPC, Isabela Gov. Faustino Dy, dismissed Pimentel's claims that the ruling was the result of a deal to coopt Cojuangco. "It's pure speculation!" Dy said, in Filipino.

"That's very, very unfair to both Danding and the Sandiganbayan," Dy told the INQUIRER.

Pimentel had practically "accused the court of being influenced by the Palace in making its decision on the case" of Cojuangco, Dy added.

Like Dy, ex-Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, another opposition leader, doubted Pimentel's assessment.

Sandigan's side

"I've known Danding as a stable person and a very skillful politician, but I don't think he will barter national interest for his personal concerns," Enrile said in a phone interview.

A highly placed source in the Sandiganbayan yesterday maintained that the court had nothing to do with any alleged deal between Cojuangco and Malacañang.

"They are entitled to that view, but it's all just coincidental," said the source, who helped the INQUIRER establish a timeline leading to the resolution that returned the control of a 20-percent bloc in SMC back to Cojuangco.

While the ruling penned by the First Division chair, Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta, was dated Sept. 17, it was promulgated only this week because the three-member court needed the time to convene a "Division of Five."

The expansion to five justices was prompted by the differing opinions among Peralta and his member justices Gregory Ong and Teresita De Castro over the number of freeze orders to be lifted.

When two more justices were called in from other divisions—Godofredo Legaspi and Francisco Villaruz—it took time for them to compose their own opinions.

The expanded division eventually voted 3-2 in favor of lifting all nine sequestration orders, which the Cojuangco camp had been questioning since September 1996.

Why it took time

The source said both the PCGG and Cojuangco's lawyer Estelito Mendoza had agreed to have the matter submitted for resolution on Oct. 29, 2002.

But why did the court—particularly Peralta—take until Sept. 17 to draft the resolution?

Because the court was attending to other major pending decisions in other coconut levy cases concerning Cojuangco shares in other companies, as well as other cases made urgent by the involvement of detained defendants.

The source drew the INQUIRER's notice to the court's July 2 landmark coco levy ruling, when it declared that Cojuangco's shares in the United Coconut Planters Bank were ill-gotten.

That ruling ultimately resolved a coco levy case against Cojuangco and was "more crucial" compared to the Oct. 8 ruling which merely lifted freeze orders, the source said.

"Hindi na nga namin alam kung saan lulugar (We don't know where to place ourselves)," the source lamented, apparently conveying the sentiments of the justices.

President's statement

In a statement released by Malacañang, the President was quoted as saying: "This case has been under litigation for a long time and my administration has stood at arm's length from the proceedings. Those imputing political interference are irresponsibly fishing for issues."

"We stand firm on good governance and we do not cut deals with the courts," Ms Macapagal said.

In a briefing before reporters, Presidential Spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the latest ruling was a "cause for disappointment for many for those who consider the shares as ultimately owned by the public."

But Bunye was unsure whether the President shared the Presidential Commission on Good Government's stand that the 20-percent bloc was acquired using ill-gotten wealth, just like the other block of sequestered shares accounting for 27 percent. "I have that impression that she shares the PCGG's position," Bunye said.

"The President respects the Sandiganbayan decision and she does not interfere in its operation. She will let the law take its course," he added.

Alliance solid

In Congress, Speaker Jose de Venecia said the coalition between the administration party Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and Cojuangco's NPC remains strong and intact, and that there was no reason for Cojuangco to leave the alliance.

De Venecia said there was no basis to reports that Cojuangco was about to coalesce with the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino.

De Venecia said the rumors about Cojuangco seeking the presidency and coalescing with LDP were just being fanned by people who wanted to ingratiate themselves with the businessman.

De Venecia also insisted there was no deal between the government and Cojuangco which led to his recent legal victory.

He said the SMC case was outside the coalition talks.

"There's no basis (to say) that the NPC will bolt the coalition," the Speaker said. "I have spoken to the leader of the NPC and there's no indication at all (that he will bolt)."

No surprise

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla of the LDP said he had not heard of any developments in the LDP-NPC talks.

Padilla said the LDP executive committee tasked to negotiate with NPC and other political parties for possible coalition would report on the progress of their work on Oct. 15.

But Padilla said it would not be a surprise if Cojuangco decides not to coalesce with LDP.

"Cojuangco is not really with us but with the administration coalition. So we have nothing to lose; he was never with us from the start in the first place," Padilla said. *With reports from Gil Cabacungan, Jerry Esplanada; AFP*

Strike leaves thousands stranded in Marikina

By Luige del Puerto and Edson Tandoc Jr.

AS CALOOCAN jeepney drivers and operators threatened to go on strike to protest the closure of a part of the Bonifacio Monument Circle, their counterparts in Marikina yesterday took to the streets, effectively paraiyzing 80 percent of public transportation in the city, according to a police estimate.

The public utility drivers in Marikina yesterday denounced city officials for pushing a controversial ordinance, the Marikina Public Utility Jeepney Regulation Code of 2003, which was supposed to consolidate the city's various transport measures.

The 2,000-strong Marikina drivers and operators association shut down operations, stranding thousands of commuters in Eastern Metro Manila.

Jeepney drivers said the ordinance is simply another measure meant to bleed them dry.

Lito Loquilla, president of the Marikina-Pasig jeepney drivers and operators' association, said the ordinance is redundant, duplicating rules already covered by the Land Transportation Office.

"They're looking for sectors they could get money from, and they come straight to us because we are vulnerable," Loquilla said.

He said local officials want operators to pay an additional P10 per unit per day—or roughly P3,000 annually—in terminal fee, on top of the LTO franchise fee, drivers' ID fee and other dues.

The strike, which started at 4 a.m., affected the Marikina-Pasig, Marikina-Antipolo, Marikina-Parang, Marikina-Calumpang lines, and other routes that pass through the city.

In Caloocan, jeepney drivers and operators failed to stop Mayor Rey Malonzo from closing part of the Bonifacio Circle to motorists and yesterday threatened to hold a strike to protest the closure.

The city government closed a part of the BMC to motorists to give way to the construction of a park leading to the BMC. Drivers going to MacArthur Highway from Samson Road or Rizal Avenue Extension now have to take a left turn near Gen. Tinio Street, instead of going around the circle.

While drivers said the closure triggered nightly traffic jams, Malonzo said the new plan had actually decongested traffic in the area.

More than 50 jeepney drivers massed in front of Caloocan City Hall to denounce the closure yesterday.

The group's leaders met with Malonzo about 2 p.m. but the dialogue collapsed after an hour, with Malonzo refusing to budge.

THE HAND THAT FEEDS
Homeless but no less happy, a woman shows much affection in the way she feeds her children at a busy corner of T.M. Kalaw Street in Manila. ERIK ARAZAS

Gunmen ransack clinic; 2 hurt

By Leila Salaverria

THEY pretended to be patients, but three men left a Manila clinic in chaos after ransacking the place and wounding two persons.

The three suspects were allegedly in search of the owners of the 3 Mary's Clinic on Pureza Street in Sampaloc when they shot midwife Alma Handa, 29, and carpenter Roseller Magallanes, 45.

Both are still confined at the UST Hospital, police said.

Investigation revealed that the suspects went to the clinic at 10:15 a.m. posing as patients and looking for Eliza and William Yu, the clinic owners.

Cathy Nadal, a nurse at the clinic, told police the suspects ransacked the place when they could not find the owners.

They also tied up three staff members and shot two of them when they resisted.

Police said the suspects left without taking any money.

METROBRIEFS

Wrong traffic guy

IT MUST be the way Enrique Bunsol was trying to direct traffic that caught the attention of two policemen. PO2 Eduard Cleofas and PO2 Mario Merza of the Caloocan City Mobile Patrol Unit were along Gen. Araneta Avenue corner Samson Road around 10:30 p.m. the other day when they saw Bunsol, 63, directing traffic in the intersection. Not even the fact that he was wearing a Metro Manila Development Authority uniform convinced the two cops everything was all right. So when they accosted Bunsol, he showed them an expired ID. They arrested Bunsol, who is now facing charges of usurpation of authority and illegal use of uniform and insignia. The police report did not say if Bunsol succeeded in untangling the traffic jam in the area. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Cop makes a scene

THE POLICE directive banning lawmen from night spots apparently does not apply to PO1 Leonardo de la Cruz, a member of the Pasig City police force. At around 8 p.m. last Thursday, police authorities learned that Dela Cruz was making trouble inside the May Videoke Bar in Barangay Dolores, Taytay, Rizal. Chief Insp. Rodino Elfa, Taytay police chief, said De la Cruz was allegedly upset because the waiters had been ignoring him. Two customers tried to calm down the policeman, but he pulled out his gun and threatened to shoot them instead. He surrendered to responding policemen. *Luige del Puerto*

Lawman loses job

SP02 WILFREDO Vargas will have to turn over his badge and pistol after the Manila's People's Law Enforcement Board found him guilty of grave misconduct. Vargas was sacked after he threatened to kill Orlando Lago of Sampaloc, Manila. Lago, a mechanic, told the board that on Jan. 18, 2002, Vargas threatened to shoot him when he failed to install a cable TV line to the policeman's house. The District 4 Board said Vargas had waived his right to a "speedy trial" when he failed to appear at the hearings. *Tarra Quismundo*

Death in a park

THREE men yesterday shot and killed an unidentified man in Marikina City. Two witnesses told police that the killing took place in a dimly-lit area of the Animal Trail in Riverpark in Barangay Tanong around 3:30 a.m. They said one of the killers got off from a tricycle, dragged out the victim whose hands were tied behind his back and shot him twice. The victim was wearing a sky blue jacket and corduroy shorts, police said. *Luige del Puerto*

Charred bodies found

THE CHARRED bodies of two men were found in a shallow pit at a vacant lot in Quezon City last Thursday. Police said the two men, whom they identified as Stevenson Rimando, 39, and Salvador Cadayuna, 58, both residents of Luzon Street, Lupang Pangako, Barangay Payatas, were last seen leaving their house on Wednesday at around 8 a.m. Around noon the next day, Maria Malinao, a resident there, told police that she smelled something foul as she passed by the vacant lot on her way home. She then informed the authorities, who discovered the bodies. *Tina Santos*

Ex-game show host rapped for attempted homicide

CHARGES of attempted homicide and grave coercion yesterday were filed against Jose "Pepe" Pimentel, a former game show host and now chair of Barangay Laging Handa, before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

According to Lucrecio Timkang, one of the complainants, he and his coworkers were removing an old gate on Scout Reyes and Fernandez Streets, Barangay Laging Handa on Oct. 6 when he was hit in the left shoulder by a speeding Toyota Revo.

Pimentel, host of the game show "Kwarta o Kahon" for almost 30 years, got down from the vehicle and stopped the laborers from installing the new gate, Timkang said.

Pimentel could not be reached for comment.

The laborer said they were working on the gate on the instruction of the local homeowners association who came up with the measure to stop the rampant car theft in the area.

Lui Tiu, head of the United Neighbors of Laging Handa, claimed Pimentel also threatened them if they would not follow his order. *Tina Santos*

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The hypocritical legislators

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

REPRESENTATIVES Kim Bernardo Lokin and Joel Villanueva of the party list Citizens Battle Against Crime (Cibac) amaze me with their "holier than thou" attitude.

There's a single word that best describes them: hypocrites.

Imagine, launching a Report-A-Mistress campaign among government officials!

C'mon, guys, nobody is clean in the government when it comes to the issue of morality!

* * *

In the first place, who will investigate government men (and women) who are reported to have paramours?

Let him who is without sin cast the first stone, according to the Bible.

And since you have cast the first stone, Lokin and Villanueva, are you morally clean yourselves?

If even priests in this country can't claim to be guardians of morals, how much more can you, ordinary mortals?

* * *

Lokin and Villanueva remind us of Sen. Panfilo Lacson in his "Jose Pidal" exposé where he uncovered a supposedly illicit affair between First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and his accountant, Vicky Toh.

But Lacson is not himself morally blameless. Years ago, he himself frequented a classy bar in Ermita called Cafe de Malate, where he had a girlfriend from among the café girls.

Perhaps having a girlfriend was Lacson's cover for his real gender, but he nevertheless carried on an affair with the very pretty girl.

I should know, because I introduced the girl to Ping.

* * *

Pssst, I'll let you in on a secret: Lacson and Reynaldo Berroya, his former boss at the Metrocom Intelligence and Security Group (MISG), parted ways because of that girl.

Berroya dated the two-timing girl and Ping Lacson found out.

Berroya, however, said that he didn't know she was Lacson's girlfriend until after the moment of truth.

"*Sabi niya sa akin, Mon, hindi naman daw siya ginagagalaw ni Ping*," said Berroya, bursting out in laughter.

Moral of the story: Never monkey around with another man's girl.

* * *

Now, going back to the "Report-A-Mistress" campaign, I may grant that Ms Lokin is morally fit, but what about Villanueva?

And what about Lokin's husband.

Ms Lokin, you'd better watch your husband because he might be sleeping on another woman's bed!

* * *

If the serving of the warrant of arrest on Ping Lacson is not handled properly, he will win public sympathy that can be translated into votes in May 2004.

If Lacson or any of his bodyguards or followers get hurt, President Macapagal-Arroyo can kiss Malacañang goodbye.

If I were the President, I would plead with the court trying the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case to place Lacson in the custody of Senate President Franklin Drilon. That way Lacson can no longer claim that the administration is persecuting him.

* * *

Lacson may roam around to campaign for the presidency all he wants.

But who will believe him? Who will believe a man who has a pending multiple murder case in court?

Recently, Lacson was down in the ratings game. This was even before the Supreme Court decision came out. The high court has remanded the multiple murder case to the lower courts.

* * *

Even if Lacson's gender is doubtful, Rey Berroya is not helping the administration any by that snide remark that the senator should be detained at the Women's Correctional facility.

Berroya is a known Macapagal boy, and his comments might be construed as having the blessings of the Palace.

That snide remark earned Ping Lacson public sympathy that he doesn't deserve.

* * *

Let's not prejudge Quezon City Regional Trial Court Judge Ma. Teresa Yadao in whose sala Lacson's case will be tried.

Even granting that she is predisposed to acquitting Lacson, she would have a very hard time doing so.

Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuno will make it hard for Yadao to acquit Lacson, if ever.

Zuno, a veteran of many much publicized cases, will head a battery of brilliant lawyers like him in prosecuting Lacson et al.

* * *

I invite the public to join me on Monday at the first-day hearing of the Senate committee on public order and illegal drugs chaired by Sen. Robert Barbers.

The Barbers committee is investigating the reported frame-up of Ricardo Romualdo, a mechanic, by some members of the Quezon City police.

Romualdo was watching TV in his home when the cops barged in and dragged him out. One of cops shot Romualdo as he tried to prevent another cop from inserting into his pocket a sachet of methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu).

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

METRO

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

FOUR DIGIT
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(In exact order)
SUERTRES
3 6 7

MEGALOTTO 6/45
7 12 14 33 39 45

Metro mayors sound the alarm

Report: Only 700 of 2,000 banks have adequate security systems

By Tarra Quismundo, Edson Tandoc Jr., Luige del Puerto and Margaux Ortiz

ALARMED over the series of bank robberies in the metropolis, Metro Manila Mayors yesterday adopted a resolution that would require the money keepers in the National Capital Region to install security and alarm systems.

In a meeting of the Metro Manila Peace and Order Council, the mayors observed that most banks do not have an alarm system.

"Only 700 out of more than 2,000 banks in Metro Manila have alarm systems," said Lito Atienza, Manila mayor and MMPOC chair.

Atienza said that 13 banks in the NCR had been robbed as of last month.

The alarm systems, Atienza said, would be connected to the central police station where the bank is located.

Valenzuela City Mayor Bobbit Carlos yesterday said he noticed that some banks have been cutting down on spending.

Carlos said the cost-cutting could make banks vulnerable to robbery.

In most cases, he said, banks do not hire enough security men or they do not install advanced alarm systems to cut costs.

He cited a police report that showed that the Marulas branch of Planters Bank, which was robbed last month, did not have an alarm system.

Police officials yesterday welcomed the move of Metro Manila mayors.

"We have been pushing for this measure for a long time," said Senior Supt. Ernesto Catungal, Pasig City police chief. "It's long overdue."

Catungal, who attended yesterday's Metro Manila Peace and Order Council meeting, said that the police are sometimes the last to know whenever a bank robbery occurs.

He said a few firms have alarm systems, but these are connected to the banks' main offices, not to police stations.

In Makati, the city council has already approved an ordinance requiring all banks to install close-circuit cameras.

"We had to take immediate action after recent spate of armed robberies in Makati and other Metro Manila banks," said Lito Anzures on behalf of Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay.

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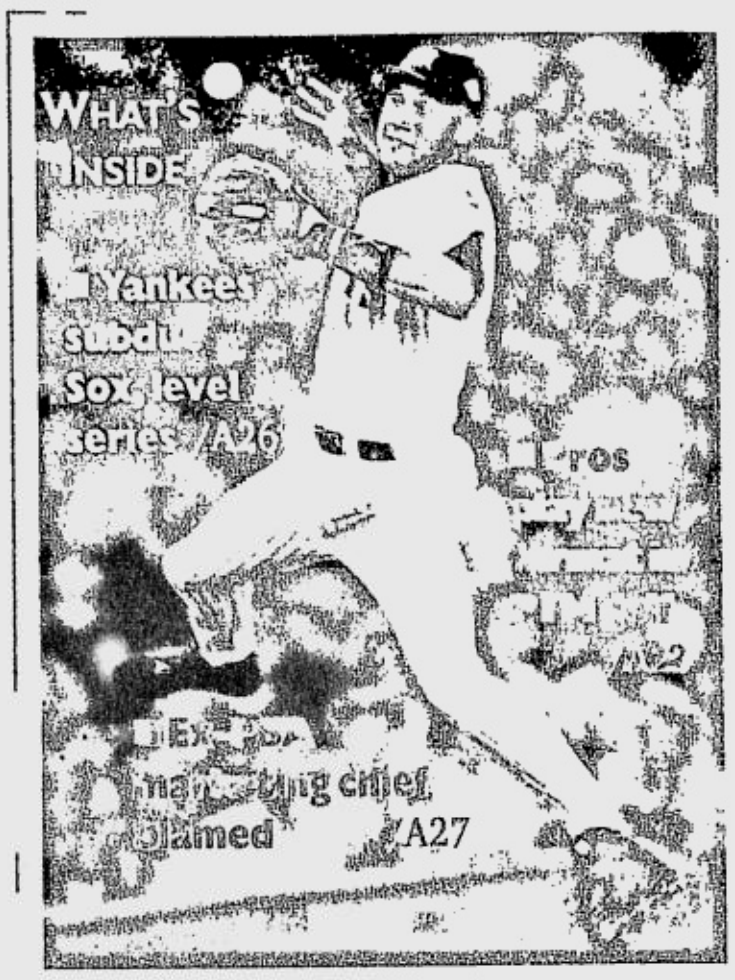

Unforgiving Coca-Cola Tigers drub Gin Kings

By June Navarro

IT WAS another pathetic night for the Barangay Ginebra Kings as they took a 110-84 manhandling from the Coca-Cola Tigers last night in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Cuneta Astrodome.

The Tigers boosted their leading Group B record to 8-1 by outplaying the Gin Kings in the second half as Ginebra import Ricky Price dished out another forgettable performance.

Price, who was also a non-factor when the Gin Kings absorbed a 92-85 to the Sta. Lucia Realtors, simply proved no match for Coca-Cola import Tee McClary.

Firing 11 of his game-high 30 points in the third period, McClary shoved the Tigers to a 79-64 lead.

Although Ginebra officials declined to confirm it, the 6-foot-3 Price could well be on his way back to the United States. Sources said Price would be replaced by Roselle Ellis, the Tigers' import last season.

Price finished with 16 points in an almost no-relief performance.

The loss dropped the Gin Kings (4-5) to fifth in Group B behind the Shell Turbochargers (3-5).

By nailing back-to-back wins against the Realtors and the Gin Kings, coach Chot Reyes and his Tigers all but planted a foot into the quarterfinals.

A victory by the Tigers in their next assignment against the Turbochargers on Wednesday would fortify their status in the next phase.

McClary also grabbed 10 rebounds and combined with Jeffrey Cariaso to account for 21 of the Tigers' 30 points in the third quarter.

After giving his team an imposing 82-66 lead, McClary was rested for good while Ato Morano, William Antonio, Leo Avenido and rookies Reynel Hugnatan and Gec Chia finished the job for the Tigers.

"We didn't concentrate on how to stop them. We just played our usual game and focused on what we were doing," said McClary.

Mark Caguioa took up the scoring slack from Price, topscoring with 28 points for the Gin Kings, who had a losing margin of at least 16 points in the last two games.

San Miguel Beer beat FedEx, 108-99, in the second game to tie its victim at 3-6 in Group A.

Scores:

First Game

COCA-COLA 110—McClary 30, Cariaso 15, Hatfield 14, Reavis 13, Morano 9, Antonio 8, Wainwright 6, Juinio 5, Avenido 4, Hugnatan 2, Chia 2, Abarrientos 2.

GINEBRA 84—Caguioa 28, Price 16, Limpot 12, Crisano 12, Adducul 6, Salvacion 4, Johnson 2, Calpito 2, David 2, Dimaunahan 0, Tolomia 0, Ballesteros 0.

Quarters: 26-24, 49-43, 79-64, 110-84.

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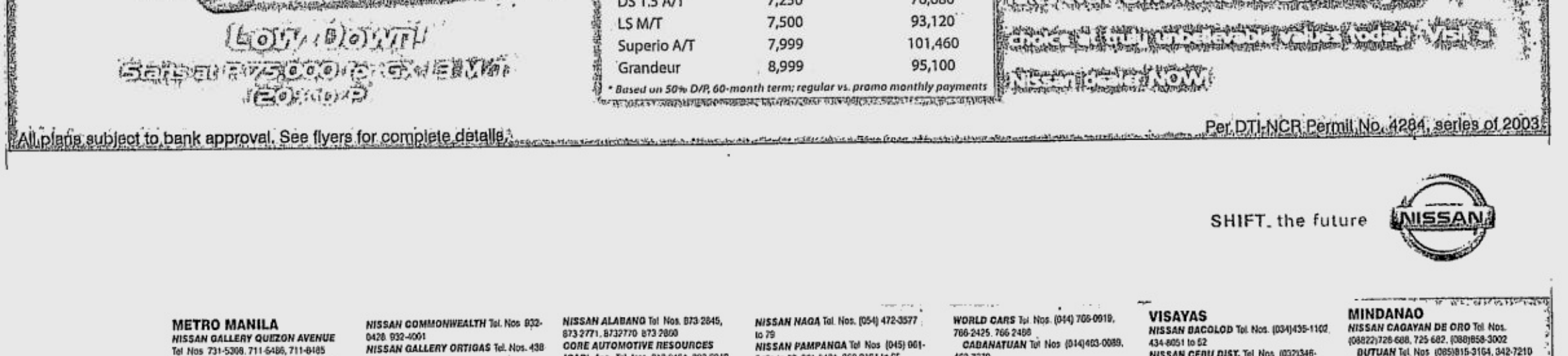


OUT-OF-TOWN TIFF

Red Bull seeks 5th straight versus Shell

By June Navarro

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Red Bull Barako shoots for its fifth straight win against Shell today in the Samsung-PBA Reinforced Conference at the Puerto Princesa Coliseum here.

On a four-game roll since NBA veteran Scott Burrell joined the Photokina Marketing franchise, the Barakos (6-2) are heavily favored in their 5 p.m. encounter with the 3-5 Turbochargers.

GAME TODAY
(Puerto Princesa Coliseum, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan)
5 p.m.
Red Bull vs Shell

"*Mas malakas ang* feeling *ko na kaya namin* (I feel we have a strong chance against) Shell," Red Bull coach Yen Guiao told the INQUIRER yesterday while the Barakos were holding an outreach program at the playing venue.

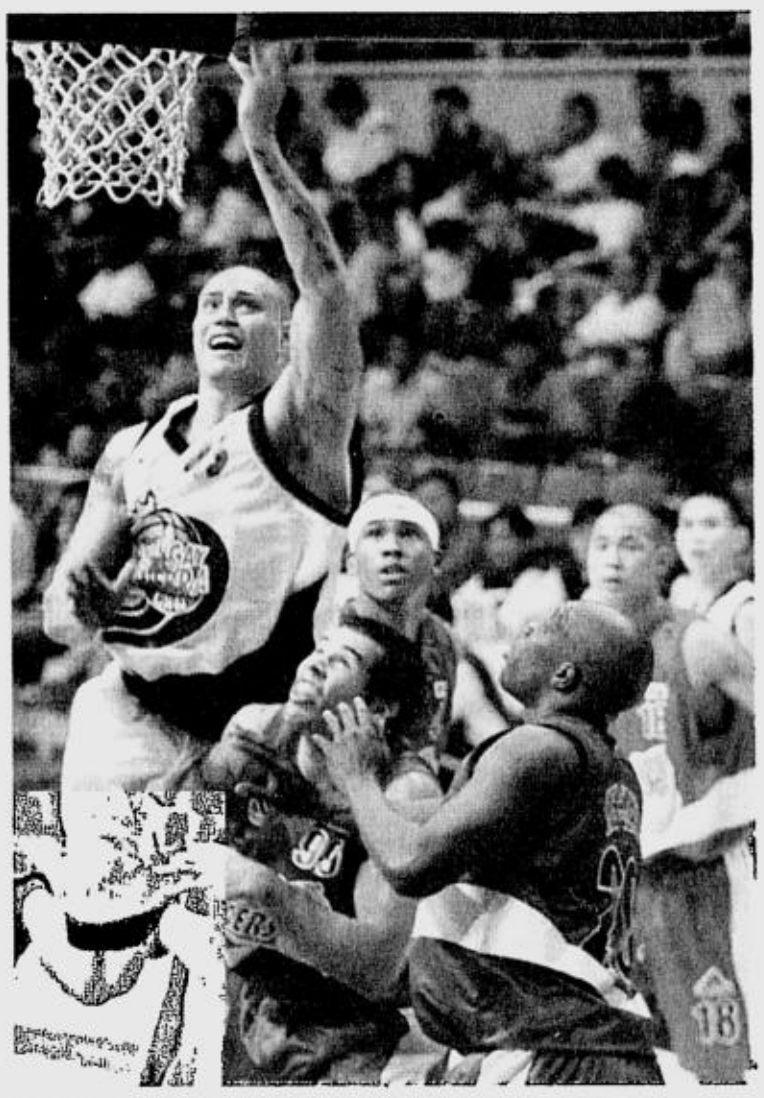
Guiao said the Barakos should be able to contain big guards Tony Dela Cruz, Eddie Laure, Dale Singson and Chris Calaguio and maintain Red Bull's run to keep up with Group B leader Coca-Cola.

"Our guards are smaller compared with Shell so we have to double team these players during isolation plays," said Guiao.

He stressed the Barakos have a distinct advantage in the shaded area with Davonn Harp, Mick Pennisi, Enrico Villanueva, Homer Se and Burrell.

The out-of-town sortie is sponsored by Air Philippines and hosted by Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn, who will incidentally celebrate his birth anniversary tomorrow.

Both teams worked out at the impressive Puerto Princesa Coliseum, the hub of Hagedorn's long term goal of transforming the city as the sports mecca in the South.



ALEX Crisano (left) of Ginebra barrels through Rudy Hatfield, Artemus McClary and Rafi Reavis of Coca Cola. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

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Lina line laudable

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I HAVE long wanted to comment—not criticize, mind you—on the PBA policy disallowing PBA members to make comments critical of the league.

From the very start, I never liked that. In the first place, it is anti free speech. In the second place, it is a narrow-minded policy. In the third place, it is retrogressive.

I guess the practice is not an original; if I am not mistaken, it was borrowed from NBA Commissioner Stern.

What is good to one may not be good to others.

But, seemingly, we are a race that loves to copy.

It is not bad to copy when what we are copying is good. We copy America's freedom of speech policy and that's good. We copy China's self-reliance policy and that's good.

But copying NBA's no criticism policy is no good. American culture differs much from ours in that, while Americans are the most onion-skinned tribe in the world, we are not. That's why our politicians have the penchant to break their promises because they typify the world-famed Filipino culture of kapalmuks (no word of honor, or having an adobe for a face).

Criticism is good. Constructive, destructive, whatever, criticism is always good. In fact, China under Mao Zedong flourished because of Mao's criticism and self-criticism policy. Feel free to criticize others but never ever forget to criticize yourself, too. At times, kibitzers know best; but, oftentimes, kibitzers know not their mistakes. So, it is best that before you criticize, you should learn the art of examining yourself first. Self-criticism is still the best conscience cleanser of all time.

It is in this light that I find nothing wrong with Bert Lina commenting on the folly of some PBA teams to hire Fil-Ams of questionable lineages. I think Freddie Uytengsu of Alaska had a similar sentiment a while back.

When Bert Lina bared his thoughts about "Fil-Shams" hurting the PBA, he was stating a fact. That is not a wild accusation per se. The comment was valid in the sense that it is backed by data in the form of moves by the Senate and the Bureau of Immigration to deport "Fil-Shams" masquerading as Fil-Ams. A naked datum also comes in the form of dwindling attendance at PBA games, a clear indication of the fans' indictment of the league in the wake of the Senate's discovery of Fil-Ams in possession of allegedly dubious documents.

We should know between legitimate comment and irresponsible charges. In my view, PBA officialdom should recast its policy so as to say PBA members (team owners, governors, coaches, players, etc.) are allowed to speak their mind but must refrain from hurling unnecessary and, therefore, usually wild accusations. Surely, team owners like Bert Lina are not prone to making irresponsible remarks or they could not have become successful businessmen, such as they are today.

Past experiences should teach us a lesson. The case of Tanduay's Bong Tan comes to mind. For speaking his mind about what he believed was the PBA's indifference on him for maybe his being too frank and outspoken a person, Bong Tan had repeatedly courted the ire of his fellow team owners. He was, on various occasions, censured, seriously warned and even fined. Saying he had had enough of PBA hypocrisy, Bong Tan pulled his team out of the league and now lives in peace, indulging mostly in his favorite pastime: golf.

Ah, we don't want Bert Lina to go the way of Bong Tan. That could hasten the league's untimely demise—if there's such a thing as timely demise.

***

FASTBREAK. Was I glad to see top sports officials like PSC Chair Eric Buhain, Olympic president Cito Dayrit and sports patron Putch Puyat wake up at dawn to meet world bowling champion CJ Suarez upon Suarez' arrival at the Manila Centennial Airport on Wednesday on board a Philippine Airlines jet from San Francisco. Of course, seeing bowling chief Steve Hontiveros among the well-wishers also warmed my heart; Steve it was who prayed at the Pink Sisters convent almost every day for a week while Suarez was campaigning in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Yes, Steve, "prayer power" did it again.

SPORTSWATCH

Lina boosts cycling, basketball

BASKETBALL Association of the Philippines secretary general Graham Lim believes that Bert Lina's ascension to the presidency of the local cycling federation will not in any way affect Lina's ties with basketball. "Mr. Lina has always been for Philippine sports in general," Lim said. "Mr. Lina through his company Air21 has been helping develop grassroots basketball a lot but it's also a sound idea to support other endeavors." Lim said cycling is in good hands with Lina at the helm. Lina, who owns the FedEx franchise in the PBA, is also the BAP vice president and masterminded the highly successful 6-feet and above nationwide program of the BAP. Lina is also acknowledged as the godfather of the Philippine Youth team.

Bowling Tour goes to Indonesia

SUAREZ

THE AVIVA Asian Bowling Tour arrives in Indonesia for the first time in six years on Oct. 12-13. All the strikes and spares from Jaya Ancol Bowl in Jakarta will be shown on ESPN at 16:00, Oct. 18-19 (Hong Kong/Singapore time). The top 14 bowlers from the Masters finals of the 1st Indonesia International Open Championships will be eligible to play. This year's Tour travels to Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Hong Kong, as well as the ranking tournament in Singapore, before its goes back to Singapore for the Grand Slam finals in January 2004. Asian bowlers copped two golds, one silver and five bronzes in the 15th World Championships. Liza Clutario guided her Philippine teammates to glory by winning three medals: a gold in trios, a silver in masters and a bronze in all events, while Malaysian women bowlers won the team of five. In the AMF World Cup, CJ Suarez became the first Filipino to win the men's title since 1996.

Tour of Pangasinan hits road today

THE CREAM of the local cycling crop hits the road anew today and tomorrow in the Tour of Pangasinan, a two-stage race that slices through the province known as the cradle of Philippine cycling. Riders from Tour Pilipinas 2003 champion Intel, Bowling Gold Road Raiders, Pagcor-Sports, Tanduay Rhum Riders, PLDT, Samsung, Gilbey's Island Punch, DILG Patrol 117, DILG Drug Busters, BIR VAT Riders, DOTC Postmen and DENR Ecosavers are vying in the event presented by Air21 and backed by FedEx and Mail and More. Today's first stage is a 78-km team time trial race (TTT) from Alaminos to Bolinao and back to Alaminos. The second stage is a 178-km massed start race from Alaminos to Mangatarem through 22 cities and municipalities of the province. As part of tomorrow's closing ceremony, the 16 former Tour champions from Pangasinan will be honored at the Mangatarem finish. Air21 president and Tour Pilipinas organizer Lito Alvarez will represent Bert Lina.

Badminton invitational resumes

WILL the country's No. 1 doubles player Bogs Amahit be able to lead the Duck Defenders to victory in the Philippine Badminton Tournament (PBT) Invitational which resumes today at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City? Standing in Amahit's way will be the Pelican Aces who boast of defeating the Ian Piencenaves-led Hawk shuttlers last week. In the other team tie scheduled this afternoon, seasoned national player Alma Ledesma will try to carry her Heron Hitters to victory over the Feather Whackers team which features former national champion Melvin Llanes. Janina Paredes is also expected to be a key player of the Feather Whackers. Paredes swept the girls' singles, doubles and mixed doubles titles in the 14-and-under age group in the recent JVC Open. Last week's ties saw the Pelican Aces edge the Hawk Shuttlers, 3-2, and the Heron Hitters defeat the Eagle Smashers, 4-1. The games of the PBT Invitational will be seen on RPN-9 every Sunday from 4-6 p.m. and on Solar Sports on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8 p.m. with replays on Wednesdays and Fridays from 1-3 p.m. The PBT Invitational is sponsored by PLDT Vibe and Yonex.

Arevalo gains junior tennis final

FAVORITE Filipino Czarina Mae Arevalo rallied past Taiwanese Tai Yu-Lin, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3, yesterday to reach the girls' singles finals of the Enervon Tablet-Futures Foundation International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City. Arevalo, No. 173 in the ITF juniors rankings, shoots for the title at 9 a.m. today against second seed and ITF juniors No. 275 Hwang I-Hsuan of Chinese Taipei, who routed Korean Kim Hee-Ju, 6-0, 6-0. Third seed Lee Seong-Woo and fourth seed Lim Hyung-Joon beat separate rivals to forge an all-Korean boys' singles finals. In the girls' doubles division, local pair Ivy Kristhel de Castro and Noelle Conchita Zoleta pulled off a 6-4, 6-3 upset over second seeds Alyssa Ann Labay of the Philippines and Natalie Solevski of Australia to advance in the finals against the No. 1 Taiwanese pair of Hwang I-Hsuan and Tai Yu-Lin, who beat third seeds Denise Dy of the United States and Gayatri Krishnan of India, 7-5, 6-1. Second seeds Ralph Kevin Barte and Kyle Joshua Dandan advanced to the boys' doubles finals against third seeds Lim Hyung-Joon and Lee Seong-Woo of Korea.

Lynx Cup 3rd leg this weekend

THE SECOND leg of the Tuason Racing School (TRS)-Ford Lynx Cup presented by Addict Mobile fires off today and tomorrow at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas. Expected to mix it up on the tarmac in their identically prepared Ford Lynx touring cars are series points leader Jeff Borja, who swept the previous three rounds; Egay Quesada, who moved it up into second overall after a scintillating drive in the previous leg and crowd favorite Dominic Ochoa.

Mulawin favored stag fighter

REP. Rudy Albano's bet, Mulawin A Jimafer, is the top favorite to clinch the "NCA Stagfighter of the Year" title when the NCA-Stag Derby sizzles on Monday and Wednesday, Oct. 13 and 15, at the Araneta Coliseum. The derby, the fifth and final leg of the Stagwars series, will be hosted by Louie Cua and Tony Tan, who confirmed the participation of more than 35 entries on Monday. Mulawin A Jimafer of Albano and Jimafer I Mikeni of Madlambayan and Jingco brothers ruled the 7-stag derby last Wednesday with six points each. Albano vaulted into the top spot of the Stagfighter race with 22 points.

Las Piñas 4-stag stakes P.5M

THE NEW Las Piñas Cockpit will be staging a special 4-stag derby next Saturday, Oct. 18, with P500,000 in cash prize at stake. Entry fee is P11,000. The Ucap-LGBA screening committee, headed by Rey Oliveros, will host the event. Assisting them is Gerry Ramos of Las Piñas. Participants are reminded to submit their entries on Oct. 17, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. For details, call 873-1040. Derby starts at 6 p.m. The cockpit will also present the "JBB Blue Blade 5-Stag One Day Derby" of Ucap stalwart Sonny Lagon on Nov. 8.

Tonio derby at Roligon Oct. 18

A CASH prize of P300,000 will be disputed in the opening "Tonio 4-Stag Derby" on Oct. 18 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit. Entry fee is P8,800 while minimum bet is P5,500 . The champion handler and gaffer will get P20,000 and P10,000, respectively. Hosts are Mike Romulo, Tonio Patty Herlihey and RV Group. Minimum bet is P5,500. Hosts are Renato Shio and Blandy Tolentino.

Cebuanos target Bakbakan title

MEMBERS of Cebu's two breeders' associations vowed to fight as one when the country's most prestigious gamefowl breeders competition, the Bakbakan 2003 National 8-Stag Derby, takes center stage from Oct. 27 to Nov. 26. Cebu Gamefowl Breeders Association (Cegba), which covers Cebu, Bohol and Dumaguete City, was first organized in November 2000 with 28 members headed by Bienvenido Tan. Cegba members Dr. Wilson Du and Alex Tan were among those who made good during last year's Bakbakan. The duo with Simon Rallos and Johnson Lee are expected to carry the banners for Cegba this year. The Cebu Gamefowl Breeders & Cockers Association (CGBCA) has been in existence since 1990 and was founded by 40 businessmen and breeders led by its president Manuel del Rosario and vice president Jose Mari Miranda.

Pros play new format in ₱1M golf

By Jong Arcano

IDLE for about eight months now, the country's professional golfers will be tried and tested playing a tough format never before used in the local scene in the P1-million Eastridge Invitational tournament on Oct. 21-24 at the scenic Eastridge Golf Club in Binangonan, Rizal.

The Eastridge event will be using a Modified Stableford scoring scheme similar to that of the International in the US PGA Tour where a score better than par gets rewarded with corresponding points and bogeys or worse are penalized.

It will be a demanding format where a birdie is worth two points, an eagle and hole-in-one five points and double eagle 8 points. While a par gets nothing, a point will be deducted from the players' score for every bogey, three points for double bogey and so on.

Erwin Temenia, golf manager of Eastridge, said that they thought of coming up with a new competition to make the chase for cash prizes more exciting.

"The International format requires a player to make as many birdies and avoid bogeys. The risk-and-reward holes of Eastridge suit this type of scoring," said Temenia.

The Japan-based Mega-Pro Resources International is bankrolling the tourney, the first 72-hole tilt to be held since the 12th and final leg of the now-defunct First Gentleman's circuit was held last February at Manila Southwoods.

Preceding the tournament is a celebrity pro-am on Oct. 20 featuring the top 40 players of the PGAP Order of Merit and invited guests.

Before the Eastridge tilt, the pros will get to warm up in the Casino Fontana Two-Man Team Challenge at Villamor on Oct. 14-15 with a total pot of P250,000 on offer.

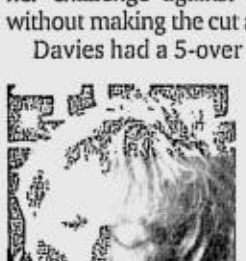
Meanwhile, Gerald Rosales was tied with John Daly and nine others in 12th place after a 73 in the opening round of the Kolon Cup Korean Open at Woo Jung Hills Country Club. Angelo Que shot a 76 and joined Justin Rose and Rick Gibson in 49th spot.

In the Tokai Cup in Japan, Frankie Minoza opened with a 73 and barely made the cut at 145.

Davies misses cut at Korean Open by four

CHEONAN, South Korea—Laura Davies said she felt something missing from most of her game as her challenge against the men ended Friday without making the cut at the Korean Open.

Davies had a 5-over 77 in the second round for an 11-over-par 155, missing the cut by four strokes at the Asian PGA Tour event.



DAVIES AP

"I was here to play a four-round tournament but it looks like I'm only playing two, so I'm disappointed," Davies told reporters.

"Nothing was bad, but nothing was really good. It was just a little bit missing from everything."

In the first round, Davies had hit two drivers into the water and carded a six-over 78 on the 6,425 meter (7,042 yard) Woo Jeong Hills Country Club course in central South Korea.

On Friday, she struggled on the green, making three putts on several holes.

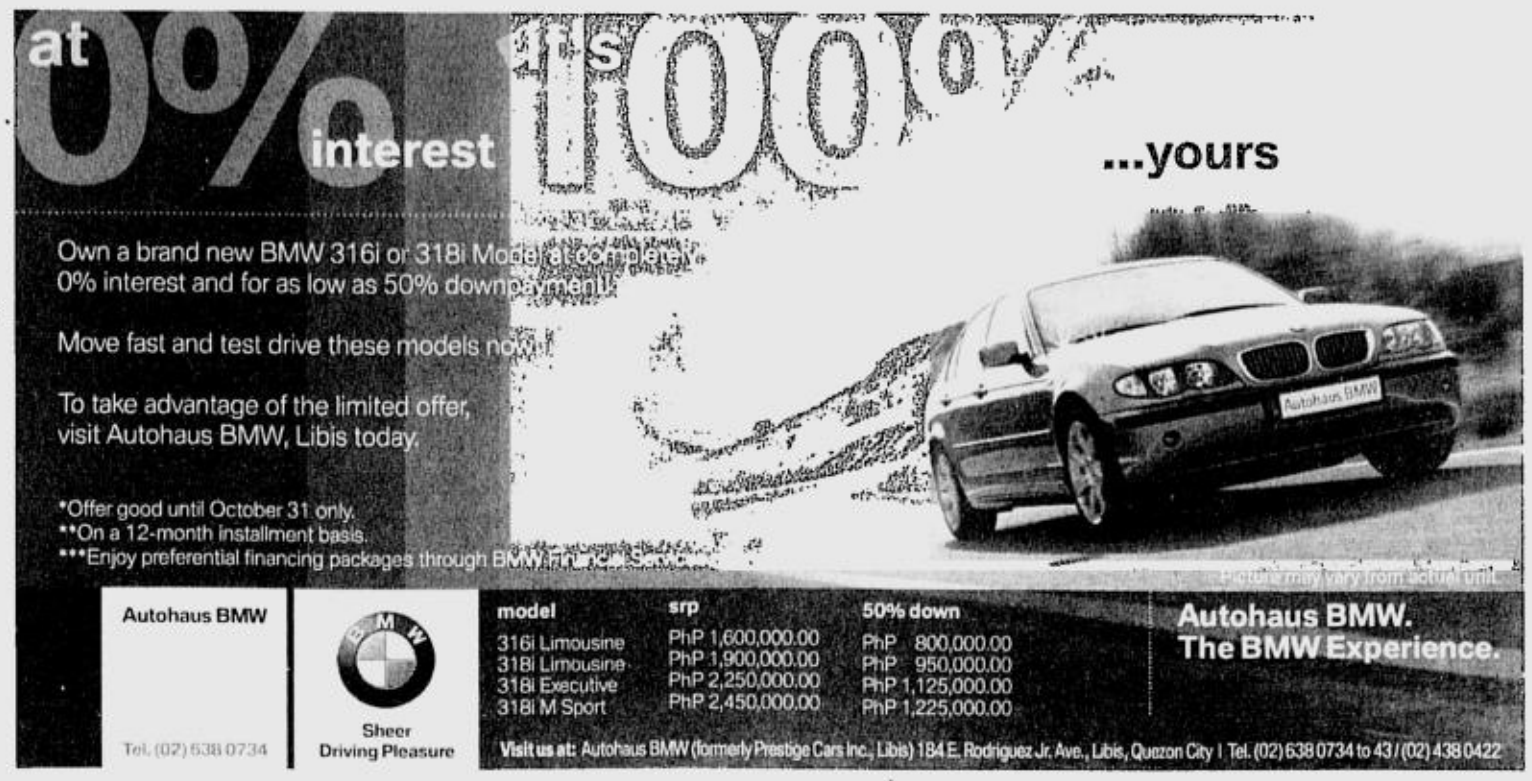
"I had 35 putts today. It's too many, and you're going to miss every cut with 35 putts," said Davies, who had six bogeys and one birdie in her second round. "It's a complete contrast from yesterday, because yesterday I putted really well."

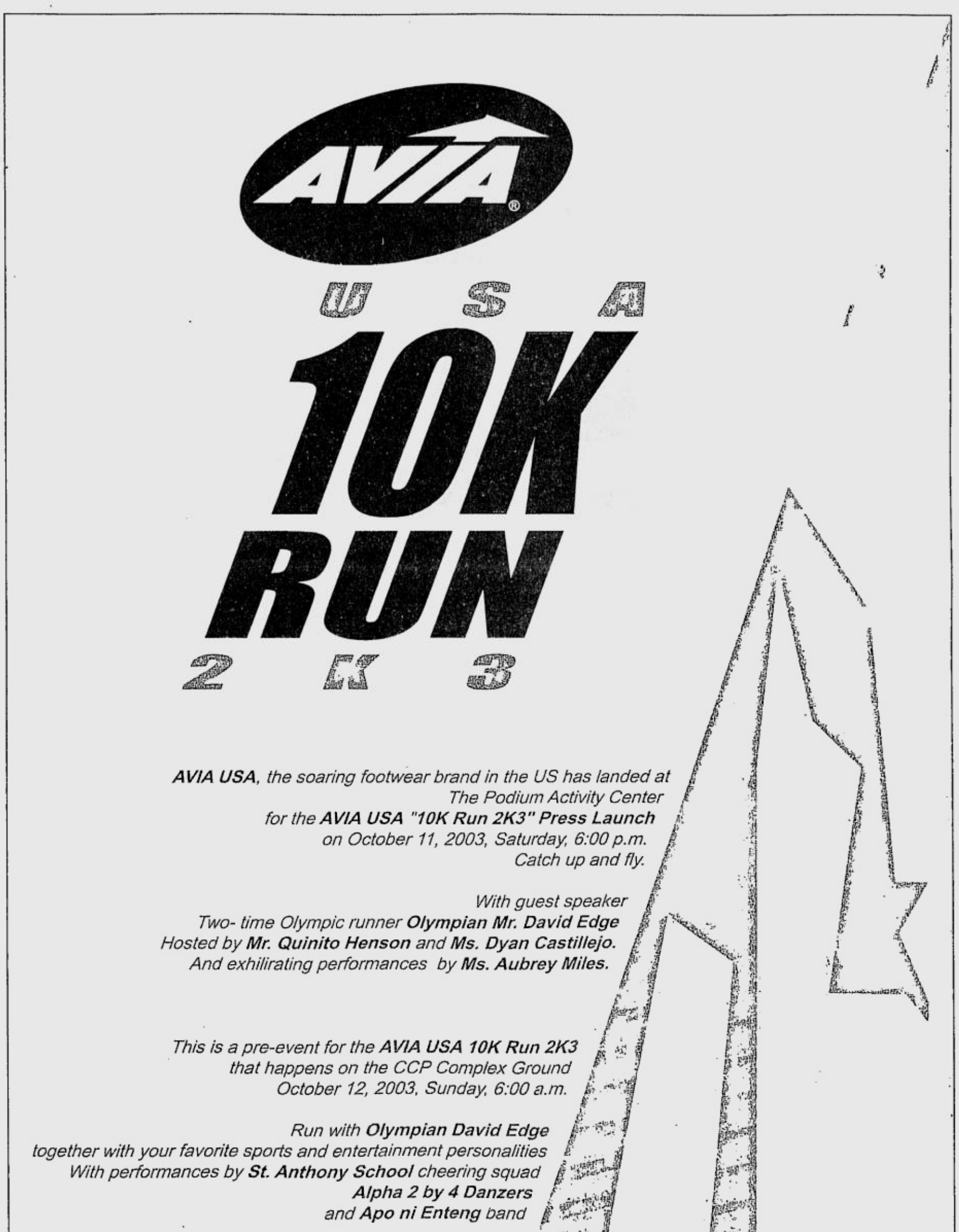
The four-time major winner on the LPGA tour and with 60 other wins around the world, Davies finished 15 strokes behind South Korean Lee Sun-ho, who led going into the weekend at 4-under 140.

Davies was the fourth woman to take on the men this year.

Annika Sorenstam became the first woman in 58 years to play on the PGA Tour when she missed the cut at Colonial. Connecticut club pro Suzy Whaley and Michelle Wie, the 13-year-old amateur from Hawaii, went against the men, but both also failed to go in to the weekend rounds.

"I learned a lot... about the way they play the game, so I enjoyed that aspect of it," Davies said after playing two rounds with 1995 British Open champion John Daly and S.K. Ho of South Korea. AP





Verplank shares top with Flesch in Vegas

LAS VEGAS, Nevada—Scott Verplank fired a 10-under-par 62 on the TPC at Summerlin Thursday while Steve Flesch carded a seven-under 64 at The Canyons to share the lead at the $4-million Las Vegas Invitational.

Flesch and Verplank were at 17-under, with their nearest rivals, Tim Herron and Charles Howell on 15-under. Herron had a two-round total of 129 while Howell had a total of 128, but both were at 15-under thanks to differing pars on the three courses in use in the first three rounds of this 90-hole event.

Verplank, seeking his fifth career victory, is hoping the week in the desert can help salvage the end of his season.

"I've been pretty disappointed with how I've played since the US Open," Verplank said. "I haven't played good. You try not to watch, but I've watched myself go from 15th on the money list to outside the top 30.

"That is definitely a goal (to make the top 30), but I think it's a goal everybody has out here at the start of the year." Herron shot a 62 at the par-72 Southern Highlands Golf Club while Howell posted a 65 at the par-72 Summerlin. The third course in the rotation, the Canyons, is a par-71 layout.

After each player has played all three, the cut will be made before the final two rounds over the weekend.

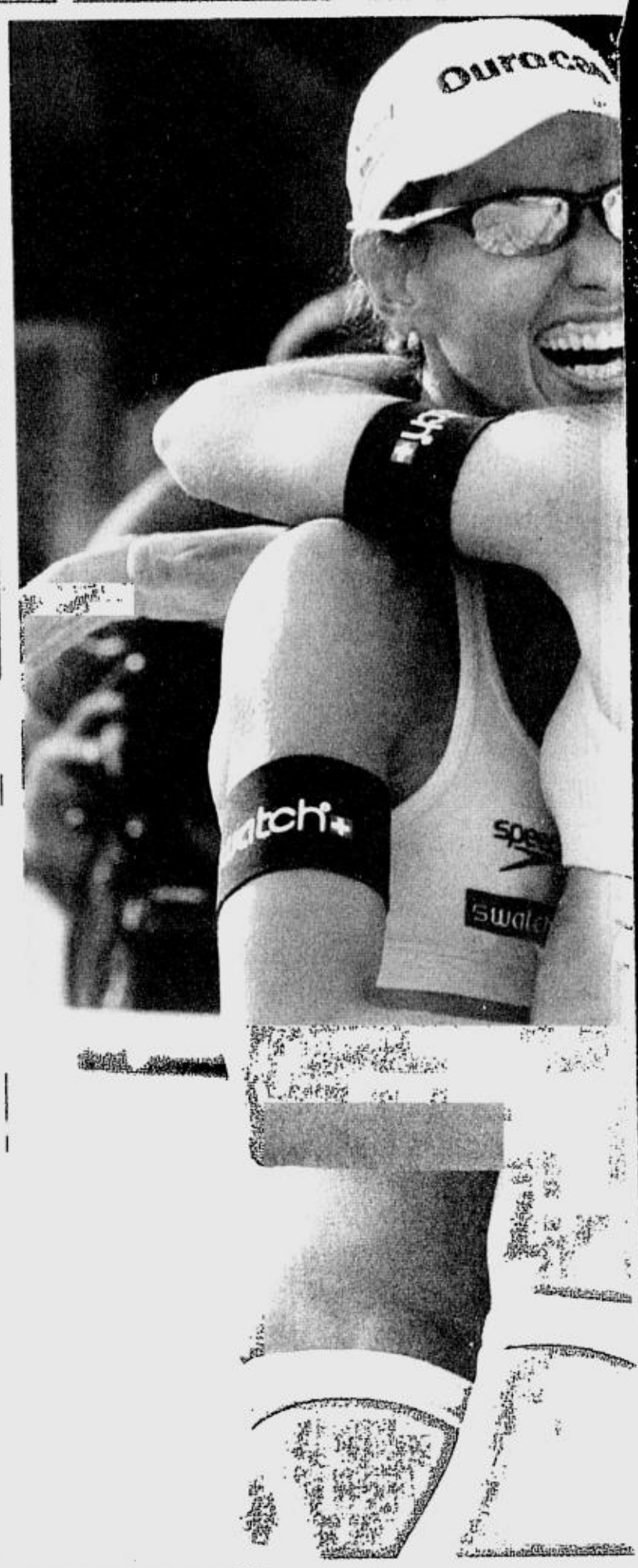
Verplank, who turned 39 in July, has finished as high as fourth twice this season and has missed only three cuts in 23 starts. But he hasn't found the winner's circle in more than two years.

"There's any number of things," he said of the reasons. "I wasn't hitting the ball as well, my feet are bothering me a little bit.

"When you get as old as I am, you're out here walking and playing as much as I do, you get worn out. Once that happens, your attitude gets a little sour. I've tried to rectify that a little this week." Verplank, who plays with an insulin pump to treat diabetes, started his round on the back nine at Summerlin and rolled home seven birdies in eight holes.

"I can't jump up and down and do cartwheels and fist pumps and all that," he said. "There were at least two or three people out there watching. If there were 10,000, it might be different.

"I was just trying to hit quality shots and quality putts, which I haven't been doing too much of." Flesch needs just $52,468 to reach the $2-million mark in earnings this year. He has his eye on the top 10 and is comfortable with his position on the money list going into the final four events of the season. *AFP*



WORLD CHAMPIONS
Brazilian players Ana Paula (right) and Sandra Pires celebrate their 2-0 vi qualifying Women's Beach Volleyball World Championship game Oct. 9 in world champions of their circuit.

Stephenson joins men's senior tour

KAHUKU, Hawaii—Jan Stephenson is known for taking unusual steps to bring attention to women's golf.

She caused a stir on the LPGA by selling her sex appeal, and perhaps the most famous episode was when she posed in a bath tub filled with golf balls.

The latest venture comes Friday when the 51-year-old Australian becomes the first woman to play on the senior men's Champions Tour.

Stephenson doesn't want to prove she can compete with the men. She has no illusions of outplaying Hale Irwin, who is trying to become the first player from the 50-and-older circuit to win the same tournament five times.

She only wants to bring attention to the fledgling Women's Senior Golf Tour.

"I don't want to match my game against the men," she said. "I know they can outhit and outplay me. I'm here to promote the WSGT. We need a spark."

Stephenson is the fifth woman to play on men's tours this year.

None is more memorable than Annika Sorenstam at the Colonial, where she became the first woman in 58 years on the PGA Tour. Under scrutiny even more severe than major championships, Sorenstam had respectable rounds of 72-75 and missed the cut by four.

Suzy Whaley qualified for the Greater Hartford Open by winning a PGA sectional tournament for club pros. She, too, missed the cut.

Michelle Wie, a 13-year-old from Hawaii, played on the Nationwide Tour in Idaho and lasted only two days. On Thursday, Laura Davies hit two balls in the water and opened with a 78 in the Korean Open.

Stephenson, who won three majors among 16 titles during her LPGA career, will tee it up with 80 men on the 7,044-yard Palmer Court in the Turtle Bay Championship.

Stephenson was the LPGA's original glamour girl, and she still thinks the tour is not doing enough to promote sex appeal in women's sports. *AP*

STEPHENSON will be the first woman to play in an official Champions Tour event when she tees off in the Turtle Bay Championship. AP

Rain halts Sorenstam's 'Fame' bid

HOUSTON, Texas—Annika Sorenstam's plans to celebrate her 33rd birthday on Thursday by earning her place in the Hall of Fame were put on hold by Mother Nature.

The Swedish superstar, the most dominant woman golfer of her era, will complete the requirements for entry for the LPGA and World Golf Halls of Fame when she completes the first round of the Samsung World Championship.

But rain forced organizers to suspend play for the day before Sorenstam teed off at the TPC at The Woodlands.

"It was going to be a very special day, and it was such a coincidence that it was my birthday as well," Sorenstam said. "But it will happen eventually. I know I'm very exited and very honored to be part of such an elite group of women. I'm certainly excited about the opportunity.

"I think it will really sink in on Oct. 20, when I get inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame, and then for my LPGA party Nov. 24."

Sorenstam has completed all the requirements for Hall of Fame entry but for 10 full seasons on the LPGA Tour.

Once she completes her first round here she'll be in the books as having competed in 15 events this season, and thus completing 10 seasons.

In anticipation of the landmark, a small ceremony had been scheduled on the 18th green.

Sorenstam, who was on the first tee preparing to start her round when play was suspended, said she didn't think that would affect her on Friday. *AFP*

Schumacher warms

SUZUKA, Japan—Ferrari's Michael Schumacher warmed up for a record sixth Formula One title on Friday with the second fastest time in free practice for Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix.

Italian Jarno Trulli, in a Renault, kept the German off the top of the timesheets before first qualifying for a season-ending race that will make grand prix history whatever happens.

Either Schumacher will be the first driver to win six crowns, beating a record he holds jointly with the late Argentine Juan Manuel Fangio, or McLaren's Kimi Raikkonen will become the sport's youngest champion.

Schumacher has 92 points to Raikkonen's 83 and the German need only finish eighth to win the title even if the 23-year-old Finn

Federer, Moya reach CA last 8

VIENNA—Top seeds Roger Federer and Carlos Moya stayed on track for a final showdown at the CA Trophy after reaching the last eight with contrasting victories on Thursday.

Defending champion Federer had to grit his teeth to survive a stern test against Slovak qualifier Karol Beck, eventually winning, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4, after bouncing back from a break down in the third set.

"I had problems with his serve and my serve," Federer said of his seven double faults and low percentage of first serves.

"I couldn't serve well, didn't return well and wasn't happy with my baseline game. I think I was lucky (to win).

"But my volleys were good. If I hadn't volleyed so well it would have been a different story out there," he added.

The victory represents the Wimbledon champion's 64th this year, making the Swiss the most prolific winner on the ATP Tour this season ahead of US Open champion Andy Roddick.

Second-seed Moya, who lost to Federer in the semifinals of the indoor event last year, had a much swifter passage into the quarterfinals as he overpowered American Vince Spadea, 6-2, 6-1.

With his consistent and strong serving, the Spaniard wrapped up the match in only 52 minutes.

"I was hitting the ball very hard and clean. I think it was a perfect match for me," a satisfied Moya said. *Reuters*

SRICHAPHAN AFP

Clijsters enters q'final

FILDERSTADT, Germany—Kim Clijsters showed she would not surrender her number one ranking easily when she overwhelmed Daniela Hantuchova, 6-1, 6-1, to reach the quarterfinals of the Filderstadt Grand Prix on Thursday.

But fourth seed Jennifer Capriati maintained her dismal record at the event when she was beaten, 6-4, 6-2, by Mary Pierce.

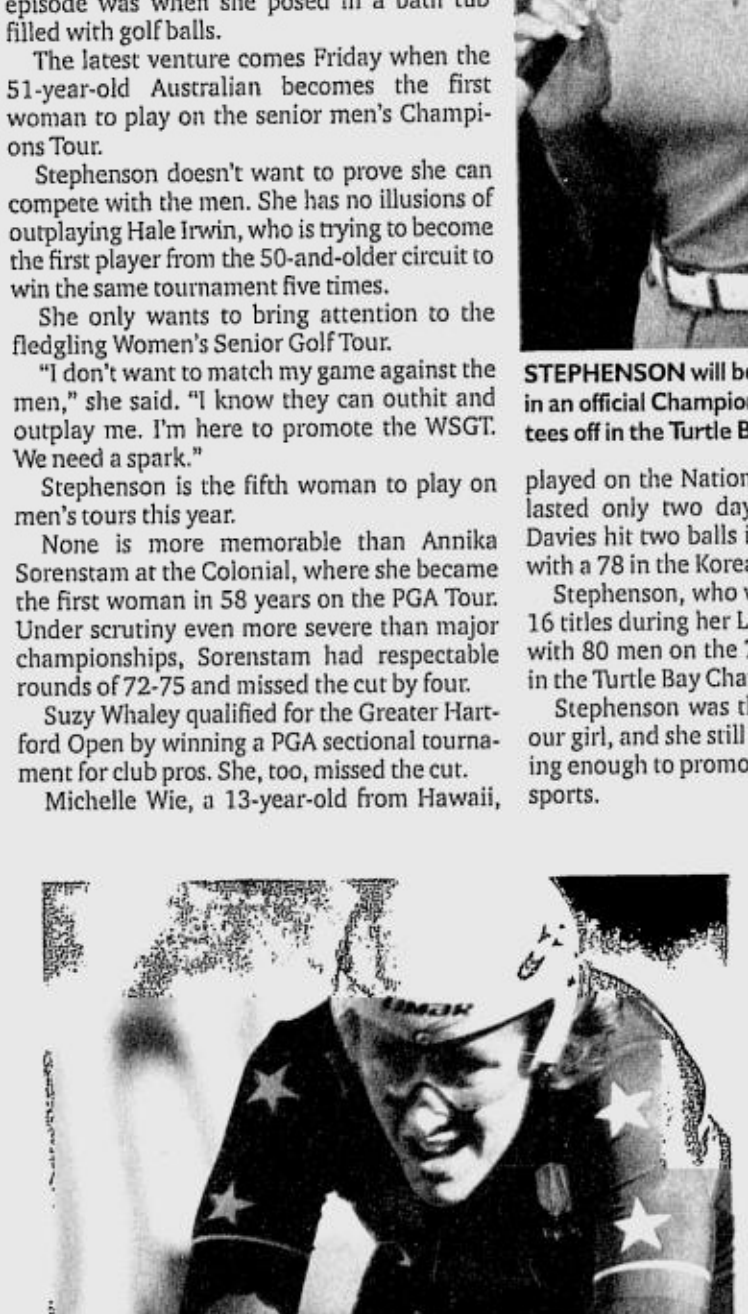
The American has now won just three of 10 matches she has played in Filderstadt.

Defending champion Clijsters could lose the top spot to fellow Belgian Justine Henin-Hardenne if the French and US Open champion were to beat Sunday's final.

But against Hantuchova, she signs of the ankle injury that for tirement from the semifinals of tournament almost two weeks a

Clijsters was in devastating ing just 42 minutes to earn v surrendering only four points the entire match. She swept t points to book a last-eight m fifth seed Amelie Mauresmo.

The match was a replay of t nal, which Hantuchova surren



US CYCLIST
Kristin Armstrong of the USA finishes the Women's Elite Time Trial in 13th place at the 2003 Road World Championships in Hamilton, Ontario. REUTERS

Paradorn advances

LYON, France—Thailand's Paradorn Srichaphan cruised into the quarterfinals of the Lyon ATP tournament on Thursday with an easy 6-3, 6-2 win over outclassed Belgian Olivier Rochus.

Third-seed Paradorn, a huge crowd favorite here, now takes on Frenchman Fabrice Santoro for a place in the semifinals after Santoro knocked out veteran Swiss star Marc Rosset, 6-3, 5-7, 6-4. Top seed Rainer Schuettler also moved into the last eight.

The German beat Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic, 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 7-5. *AFP*

REUTERS

UNITED States forward Mia Hamm heads the ball during a training session for the FIFA 2003 Women's World Cup in Carson, California.

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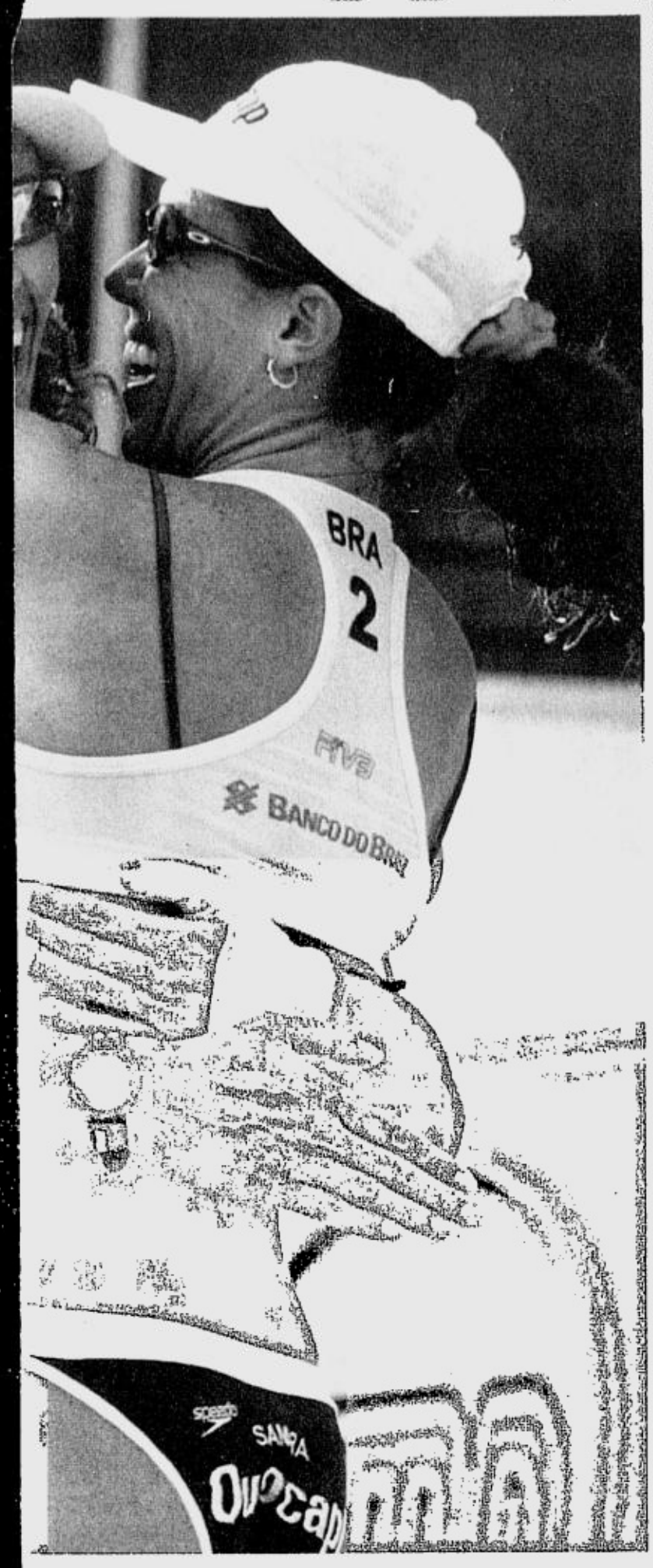


ctory against Tatiana Riera and Claire Jaouen of France during their Copacabana Beach, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. With their victory, they became

AFP

TRAINING CAMP

Lakers a work in progress

HONOLULU—The Los Angeles Lakers remain a work in progress after breaking training camp, a superstar-laden team unsure about the status of Kobe Bryant.

He reported to camp a day late, then had to leave a day early to get to Eagle, Colorado, for a court appearance Thursday in his sexual assault case.

The Lakers returned to Los Angeles at the same time Bryant was in court.

Slowed by offseason knee surgery, Bryant didn't spend much time on the basketball court with his teammates until late in camp. He didn't play in the first exhibition game, then left Hawaii several hours before their second game.

Still, his case overshadowed the addition of guard Gary Payton and power forward Karl Malone, who took big pay cuts to join the Lakers in hopes of winning an NBA title.

The other Lakers got on with their business, while keeping Bryant in their thoughts.

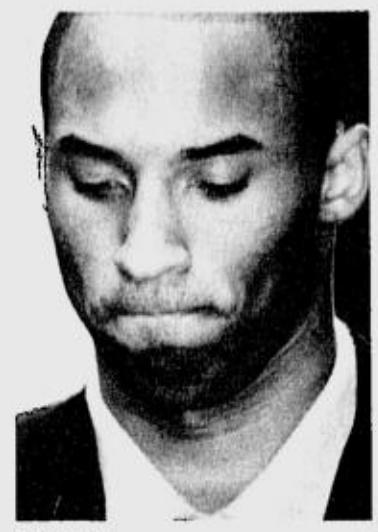
"We've got to concentrate on basketball. We're professionals," Payton said. "We know Kobe's going to be back with us. We're just going to let him handle his business right now. We've just got to play basketball and get this team winning.

"What we have to do is keep this ship going until he jumps back on. Once he jumps back on, then we know it's going to be even a smoother ride with him."

Said coach Phil Jackson: "He's going to maybe have to take some time and plot and plan some things, lay it out. We're not trying to infringe on that, but sometime in the near future we expect him to be on the court."

While his teammates practiced during camp, Bryant mostly rehabbed his right knee.

"Kobe won't fall behind," Jackson said. "He knows what we're doing. He's on cue and his basketball is relatively close. His timing's going to be back in 45 minutes practicing with the players." *AP*



BRYANT AP

Knicks sign top defender Mutombo

NEW YORK—Veteran center Dikembe Mutombo, a four-time NBA Defensive Player of the Year, signed with the New York Knicks Thursday.

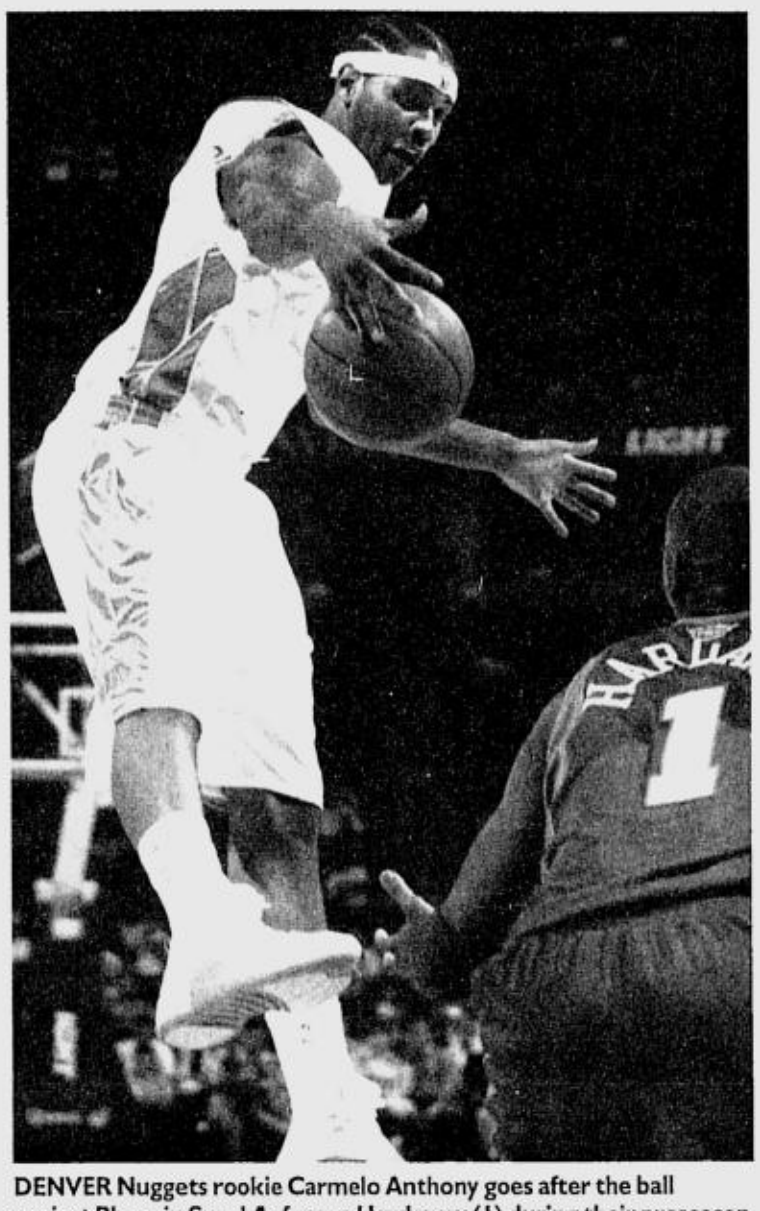
Terms were not disclosed. The 37-year-old from the Democratic Republic of Congo had been seeking a two-year deal, according to media reports.

Mutombo was waived by the New Jersey Nets Monday with two years and more than $37 million remaining on his contract. He will fill a role once reserved for Patrick Ewing with New York.

"I know Dikembe very well through the years and there is no question he'll fit right into our system and thrive," Knicks coach Don Chaney told reporters.

"Adding a shot-blocker and rebounder of Dikembe's caliber to our team dramatically improves key areas that we were looking to upgrade," said Knicks president Scott Layden.

A future Hall of Famer, the 7-foot-2 Mutombo has averaged 12.2 points, 12.1 rebounds and 3.33 blocks in 864 games with Denver, Atlanta, Philadelphia and New Jersey. He is an eight-time All-Star. *Reuters*



DENVER Nuggets rookie Carmelo Anthony goes after the ball against Phoenix Suns' Anfernee Hardaway (1) during their preseason game at the Pepsi Center in Denver, Thursday. AP

Woman says Kobe struck from behind

EAGLE, Colorado—The woman who accused Kobe Bryant of rape told police a flirtatious encounter quickly turned ugly when he grabbed her by the neck, bent her over a chair and attacked her, repeatedly asking, "You're not going to tell anybody about this, right?"

The 19-year-old woman was raped after agreeing to go to Bryant's suite at the resort where she worked, Eagle County Sheriff's Detective Doug Winters testified Thursday at a preliminary hearing to determine whether Bryant will stand trial.

Winters described in graphic detail for a packed courtroom how, according to the woman, an exciting, chance meeting with the Los Angeles Lakers' superstar led to a nightmarish assault that left her shaken and in tears.

She said she told Bryant "no" at least twice and he ignored her, pulling her dress up and her underwear down and raping her from behind.

At one point, the woman told police, Bryant forced her to face him and say "no" when he asked if she was going to tell anyone. After the attack, Bryant made her kiss his penis, Winters said the woman told investigators. *AP*

up for 6th F1 crown

wins on Sunday.

Raikkonen was sixth fastest, his lap of one minute 31.303 seconds comparing to Trulli's 1:30.727 and Schumacher's 1:31.009.

Briton Jenson Button, thrust into the role of BAR team leader after Thursday's announcement that Japan's Takuma Sato would replace Canadian former champion Jacques Villeneuve for the race, made a smoky start to the weekend.

Button, who led the last US Grand Prix before his troublesome Honda engine blew, suffered another failure 10 minutes into the session and pulled over on the pit straight with smoke billowing from the car.

Sato, who finished fifth for Jordan at Suzuka last season, clocked the 12th best time. *Reuters*

SPORTS TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 2003 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying; 7 a.m. (r) and 12:55 p.m.; Star Sports—The F1 series closes out its 2003 season from the Land of the Rising Sun.

BASEBALL: 2003 MLB ALCS Game 3; tomorrow at 4 a.m.; ESPN—It's Pedro against the Rocket as Boston and New York continue their battle.

BASKETBALL: Raptors vs Knicks, Game 5, 2001 Eastern First Round; 8 a.m. (r-midnight)—Vince Carter leads Toronto to its first playoff series triumph as they eliminate New York.

Bucks vs Sixers, Game 5, 2001 Eastern Finals; 11 a.m.; Solar Sports—Ray Allen leads Milwaukee against Allen Iverson and Philadelphia in this memorable playoff encounter.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Third-place game matters to Americans

CARSON, California—The US women vow they won't treat Saturday's World Cup third-place game as a consolation prize.

In fact, it's the beginning of their buildup to the next big goal, the 2004 Olympics.

"We have to finish the World Cup and it is not the game we wanted to be playing in," Kristine Lilly said Thursday of the match against Canada. "But we want to show we are still a great team.

"For what the sport has done for us and the World Cup is such a great event, you can't disrespect it. We still have a lot to show; I feel we haven't played our best soccer yet. We'll be ready for the game against Canada."

That game comes one day before Germany and Sweden play for the championship. The Germans eliminated the defending champion Americans in the semifinals. Sweden rallied to beat Canada to get to the final, winning its fourth successive match after an opening loss to the United States.

Still, the US women insist they will approach the bronze-medal match the way they would the final. The last time they were in such a position, in the 1995 World Cup, the Americans defeated China, 2-0, for third place.

Co-captain Julie Foudy called a win Saturday "the first step" toward the Athens Games.

And the defeat to Germany will not be forgotten.

"It is something uniquely motivating when you feel and experience that loss," Foudy said. "You remember it every day in training and it drives you. You use it every day and it drives you for the next 10 months. There's got to be a positive that comes out of it."

In the past three World Cups, the Americans were winners in 1991 and '99 and had that third-place showing in '95. After '95, they went on to win the 1996 Olympics and then the '99 world championship.

The players, most of whom will be on the roster for Athens, have no doubt they will return to the top of the sport—sooner, not later.

"In hindsight, why this team may have faltered I don't know, but the fact is we didn't do it," World Cup rookie Abby Wambach said. "You focus on how we can do it for the next time and you always still believe you can do it. I believe we can do it." *AP*

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Clijsters has only once failed to reach the semifinals this year in the 17 events she had played before this week.

"I've become a lot more mature, a lot more consistent compared even to the last few months," said Clijsters. "My best game now is the same as it was then but a year ago I would have moments when I was too much up and down.

"I feel I served a lot better than when I played against her last year and I never really gave her the chance of playing her own game." *Reuters*

CHANDA Rubin of the US returns a shot to Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva at the Porsche Tennis Grand Prix in Filderstadt. AFP

Beckham shuns boycott vs Turkey

LONDON—England football captain David Beckham begged teammate Gary Neville not to lead a boycott of the side's crucial Euro 2004 qualifier against Turkey in protest to the axing from the squad of Rio Ferdinand, The Sun newspaper reported Friday.

Meanwhile, an overwhelming majority of supporters believe England's Football Association (FA) was right to ban Ferdinand after he failed to undergo a drugs test, according to a poll in the tabloid, Britain's biggest-selling daily.

"I need this like a hole in the head," Beckham is said to have told his former Manchester United teammate, Neville, as the pair argued over the issue.

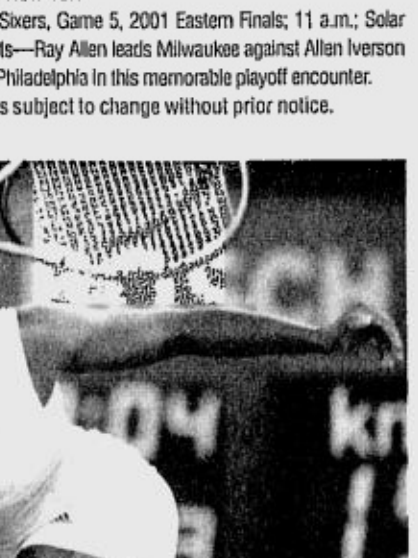
"The two of them had a furious argument which must have gone on until two in the morning on Wednesday," a source close to Beckham was quoted as saying.

It was a dramatic U-turn after Beckham had earlier voted to strike along with his teammates, The Sun said.

England's players dropped their boycott threat late Wednesday just hours before they were due to fly out to Istanbul for Saturday's tie.

They also launched a bitter attack on the FA, accusing the association of failing them "very badly" over Ferdinand's ban.

"David was never happy with the strike call," a source close to the England team was quoted as saying in The Sun. *AFP*



BECKHAM REUTERS

SPORTS noodle

Bong Barrameda VOL. I NO. 61

In the News

A serving of 7 questions, from easiest to toughest, each with a corresponding point value. Can you score a perfect 100 (or, at least, beat the other 'sports genius/geniuses' beside you)?

1 > 3 Pts.
❑ True / ❑ False: The Philippines won the overall title at the Southeast Asian Age Group Swimming Championships held at San Pablo City, Laguna.

2 > 5 Pts.
Scott Burrell, a teammate of Michael Jordan in the 1998 world champion Chicago Bulls, now plays for which PBA squad?
❑ Red Bull Barako
❑ Barangay Ginebra

3 > 7 Pts.
Lithuania won the European Basketball Championship in Stockholm, Sweden, with a 93-84 win over:
❑ Spain
❑ France
❑ Italy

4 > 10 Pts.
Which city hosted the Italian Grand Prix where Michael Schumacher claimed his 50th Ferrari victory?
❑ Milan
❑ Modena
❑ Monza

5 > 20 Pts.
Annika Sorenstam led Europe to a decisive triumph over defending champion America in what prestigious golf team competition at Loddekopinge, Sweden?
❑ Ryder Cup
❑ Federation Cup
❑ Solheim Cup
❑ Eisenhower Cup

6 > 25 Pts.
The Philippines won Asia's first gold medal at the World Tenpin Bowling Championships in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Which event?
❑ Women's singles
❑ Women's doubles
❑ Women's trios
❑ Women's all-events

7 > 30 Pts.
How did all three judges score Shane Mosley's 12-round victory over Oscar De La Hoya in the duo's world super welterweight title fight in Las Vegas?

ANSWERS/ A28

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Yankees subdue Sox, level series

NEW YORK—Andy Pettitte worked 6 2/3 innings after a shaky start to carry the New York Yankees to a 6-2 win over the Boston Red Sox Thursday, tying the American League Championship Series at one game apiece.

Game Three in the best-of-seven series is in Boston Saturday, with multiple Cy Young Award winners Roger Clemens and Pedro Martinez on the mound.

The Red Sox loaded the bases with two down in the first inning but failed to score, then put men on the corners with none out in the second.

They picked up a run on Damian Jackson's single but could not count another against Pettitte, who forced Gabe Kapler to ground into a double play. Bill Mueller then grounded to third to end the inning.

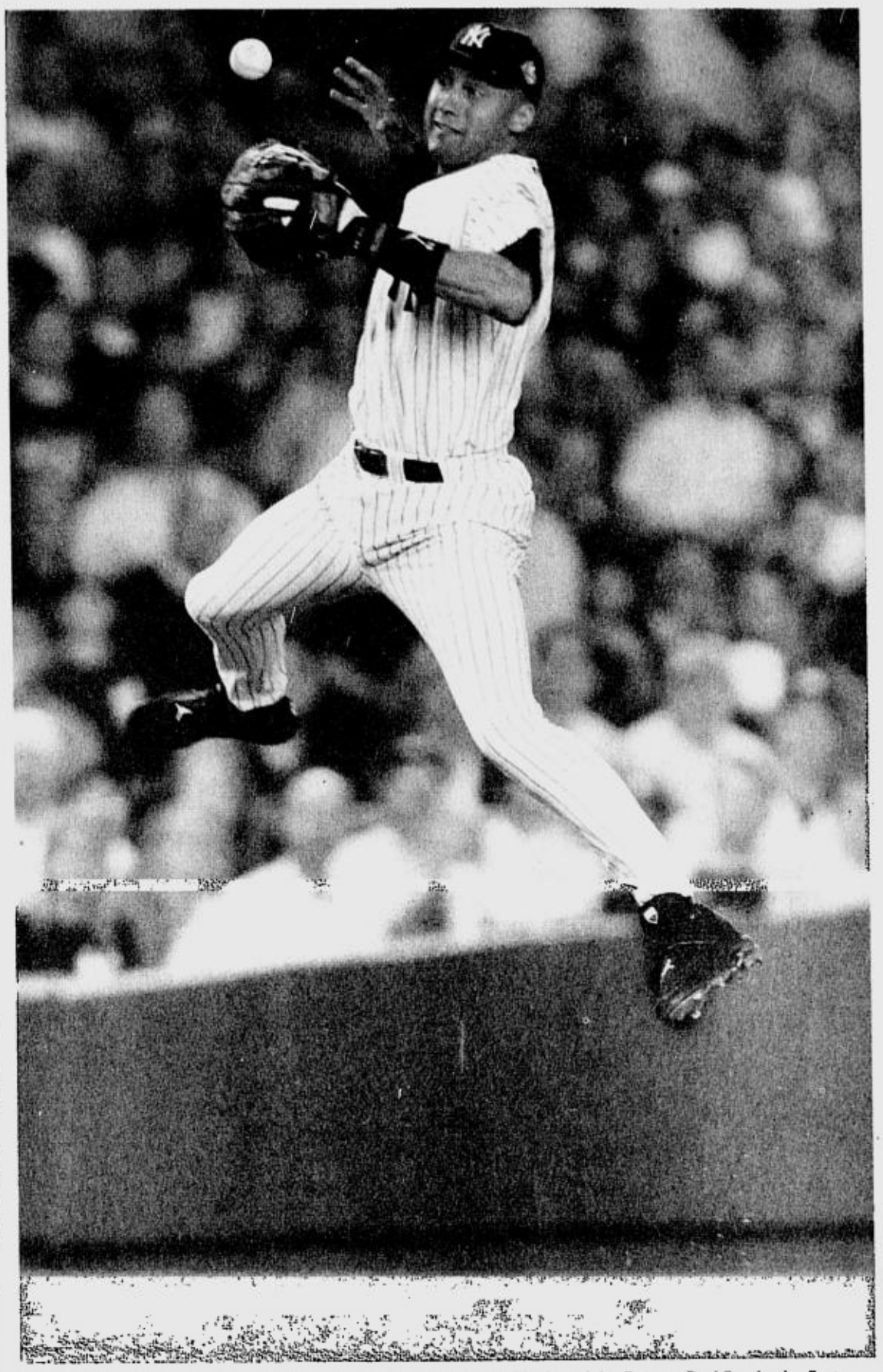
"We escaped those first two innings giving up only one run," Yankees manager Joe Torre told reporters. "That was a big lift for us." "The game was determined there in the first two innings," said Red Sox manager Grady Little. "He (Pettitte) got into a rhythm after that and the rest is history." Pettitte was hardly threatened beyond the opening two frames, bringing to mind Torre's pre-game comments.

"I trust him when I send him out there," the low-key Torre had said. "There's no higher compliment I can pay." Jose Contreras took over for Pettitte and set down the four batters he faced before giving way to closer Mariano Rivera, who tossed a one-hit ninth.

The Yankees scored in the second inning when Nick Johnson took Boston starter Derek Lowe deep with one out and Hideki Matsui aboard.

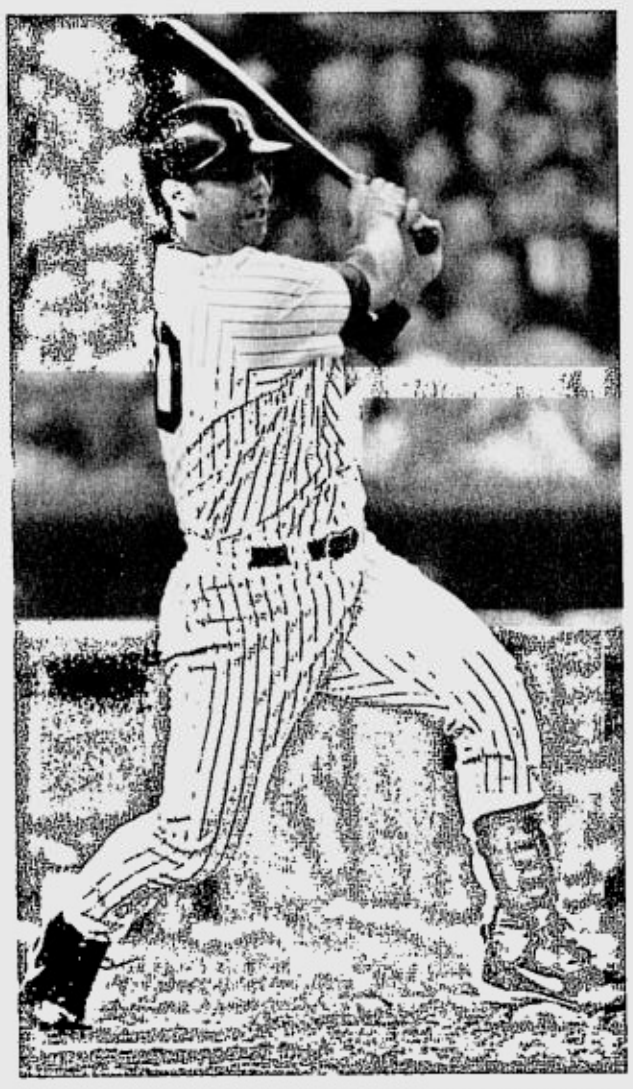
"I put a good swing on it," Johnson told reporters. "Andy threw a great game." The Yankees added another run in the third, Derek Jeter getting aboard with a slow roller, advancing to second on Jason Giambi's single before coming around to score on Bernie Williams's single to right.

New York scored again in the fifth on Hideki Matsui's single. The Red Sox recorded their second run in the sixth when Jason Varitek belted a line drive homer to left center with two out. *Reuters*



DEREK Jeter of the New York Yankees bobbles a hit by Gabe Kapler of the Boston Red Sox in the first inning during game 2 of the American League Championship Series. AFP

A's retooling begins



CATCHER Jorge Posada of the New York Yankees hits a two-run double in the seventh inning. AFP

OAKLAND, California—The retooling of the Oakland Athletics has begun.

Just three days after being eliminated from the postseason, the Athletics claimed infielder Marco Scutaro and outfielder Matt Watson off waivers Thursday from the New York Mets.

Scutaro appeared in 48 games with New York this past season, hitting .213 with two home runs and six RBI. The 27-year-old Venezuelan, who can play both second base and shortstop, owns a .216 average in 75 major league games.

Watson, 25, made his major league debut in 2003, going 4-for-23 (.174) with two RBI in 15 games. He spent most of the season with Class AAA Norfolk but played at both the Class A and AA levels on injury rehabilitation assignments.

To make room for the former Mets on the roster, Oakland designated lefthander John Halama and catcher Mark Johnson for assignment.

Halama began the season in the starting rotation but was relegated to the bullpen in June. He posted a 3-5 record and 4.22 ERA in 35 games, including 13 starts.

Halama, who has a 45-37 career record, made the Athletics' American League Division Series roster but did not make an appearance.

Johnson played in just 13 games with Oakland, going 3-for-27 (.111) with three RBI. He has a .219 career average with 16 homers and 79 RBI in 315 contests.

After being forced to part with slugger Jason Giambi following the 2001 season due to financial constraints, the Athletics face the same situation this offseason with 2002 AL MVP Miguel Tejada.

Oakland has failed to advance past the AL Division Series four consecutive years. *AFP*

Only complacency can deny Italy slot in European finals

ROME—Barring an upset bigger than their shock second round defeat to South Korea at last year's World Cup, Italy will clinch a place in the 2004 European championships on Saturday.

Victory over minnows Azerbaijan in their final qualifying match in Reggio Calabria will see the Azzurri win Group Nine and book their ticket to Portugal next summer.

Unbeaten in their last nine matches, Italy had 14 points from their seven matches, one more than second-placed Wales, who face Serbia and Montenegro in Cardiff the same day.

The in-form Italians defeated Azerbaijan 2-0 in Baku last year and are fully expected to overcome the group's bottom club in southern Italy.

But coach Giovanni Trapattoni knows only too well the danger of complacency and has warned his players to treat their unfancied opponents with the utmost respect.

"This is an important and very delicate game, so we must step on to the field with the right level of concentration and desire to win," said Trapattoni, who took over from Dino Zoff following Italy's Euro 2000 final defeat to France.

"The history of our football is full of examples of over-confidence and I don't want to add a new page to that particular chapter.

"Azerbaijan have a very dangerous weapon and that is the lack of pressure on their heads. We must respond with the right attitude." Italy had a poor start to their qualifying campaign, taking just four points from a possible nine in their first three matches.

But back-to-back wins against Finland were followed by a 4-0 home win over Wales and a draw in Serbia, which saw Italy take command of the group. *AFP*

Ruiz replaces Tua against Hahman

NEW YORK—John Ruiz, and not David Tua, will fight Hasim Rahman for the World Boxing Association heavyweight championship in Atlantic City on December 13, promoter Don King announced here Thursday.

King said that Tua, who lives in Auckland, New Zealand, could not negotiate a deal for the fight, which will be part of six world title bouts on the same night.

"We had problems with his management, and it now appears Tua is having problems with his management," said King.

"I am praying to get Tua a fight to resurrect his career. He deserves a title shot, and I will try to get him one with Chris Byrd."

King and Tua's management had been trying to negotiate a deal for the past month. A few minutes before the press conference began, King said that Ruiz (37-5) would step in the ring against Rahman (35-4-1).

King said that "domestic intranquility" had ended Tua's hopes of fighting Rahman and added he hoped "peace will prevail." "I'm looking forward to it," said Ruiz, who plans to beat Rahman to get another shot at Roy Jones. King said he was hoping that Jones would fight the winner of the Rahman-Ruiz contest.

Jones made history in March, when he became the first former middleweight champion since 1897 to capture the heavyweight title with a 12-round decision over Ruiz for the WBA title.

But Jones has since relinquished the WBA title in order to take on Antonio Tarver in a light heavyweight title fight on November 8.

Rahman said: "I'm going to do everything in my power to win this. Ruiz is a tough, tough fighter. He'll bring it on from round one to 12. If I don't win this fight in spectacular fashion, then I shouldn't be fighting." The main fight on the card will pit International Boxing Federation and World Boxing Council middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins (42-2-1) against WBA champ William Joppy (34-2-1) for the undisputed middleweight title. *AFP*

Rogers bags historic silver

HAMILTON, Canada—Michael Rogers was beaten fair and square—but still bagged a historic silver medal for Australia in a tough time trial at the world road cycling championships here on Thursday.

And the 23-year-old time trial specialist, who rides for the talent-rich Quick Step team, said he plans to make up for his second place behind Scotland's David Millar in the gruelling race against the clock.

Cofidis rider Millar practically cruised over two laps of the 20.7 km circuit to claim Britain's first gold medal in the event since Chris Boardman won the inaugural title in 1995.

The 26-year-old Scot, an unlucky runner-up behind Jan Ullrich in 2001, started in style and had soon relegated the rest of the 44-man field to battling for the lesser prizes on a sun-drenched hilly circuit on which the local crowds appeared for the first time in the competition. *AFP*

ROGERS AFP

CHINA-BOUND BATTERS
Amateur Softball Association of the Philippines president Congressman Harry C. Angping (center) with the national softball team which left yesterday to compete in the 7th World Junior Women's Championship in Xiamen, China.
ROGER MARGALLO

White stands to lose golds as IAAF confirms doping

PARIS—American sprinter Kelli White is set to be stripped of her world championship 100m and 200m gold medals after her dope test failure was confirmed on Thursday.

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) confirmed that the B-sample of her test taken after her 100 meters triumph at the championships in Paris in August showed traces of the stimulant Modafinil.

"The United States federation had to wait for the result of the B sample and now they will hold talks with the athlete on a date to be agreed," said an IAAF spokesperson.

The case will be discussed by the US Anti-Doping Agency (Usada) who will decide if a doping violation has been committed.

"The IAAF will decide on a penalty," said the spokesperson.

A decision is expected by the end of November with White already insisting that she intends to challenge any move to strip her of her medals.

"I do intend to fight to keep my medals. My reputation has been tarnished," she said in Belgium last month.

The IAAF last month rejected White's explanation for the presence of Modafinil in her urine sample after her 100m victory.

White, 26, who was the first athlete since disgraced East German sprinter Katrin Krabbe in 1991 to do the sprint double, claims she needs the drug to combat the effects of the sleeping sickness narcolepsy. *AFP*

Ex-PBA marketing chief blamed

By June Navarro

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—After the frantic finger-pointing, blame for the damaged memorabilia of the PBA's 25 greatest players was thrown in the direction of the league's former marketing division chief.

INQUIRER sources yesterday revealed that Ronnie Poe, who acted as marketing head during the time of former PBA commissioner Jun Bernardino, negotiated the safekeeping of the memorabilia which were ravaged after these were used in a series of mall tour exhibits three years ago.

"The PBA even allocated funding for the long-term storage of the memorabilia so we were shocked to find out that most of them were destroyed," said the source who requested anonymity.

Poe was said to have brokered a deal with the Philippine Exhibit and Trade Corporation through one of its officials, a certain Edith Collado, for the storage of the priceless items.

"But Collado denied having cut a long-term storage deal with the PBA and said the contract with Petco had already expired in 2000," the source added.

PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said the only missing piece in their investigation is the statement of Poe, who left for the United States early this month.

Poe resigned after Eala succeeded Bernardino at the beginning of the season.

"We will wrap up the investigation on who should be held responsible when Mr. Ronnie Poe returns from the United States. I've already asked some of the personnel involved and I'm asking for a full report from one of his staff," said Eala.

He also asked Hazel Ancheta, who worked under Poe during the 25th anniversary of the PBA in 2000, to make an inventory of the memorabilia which were either damaged or lost.

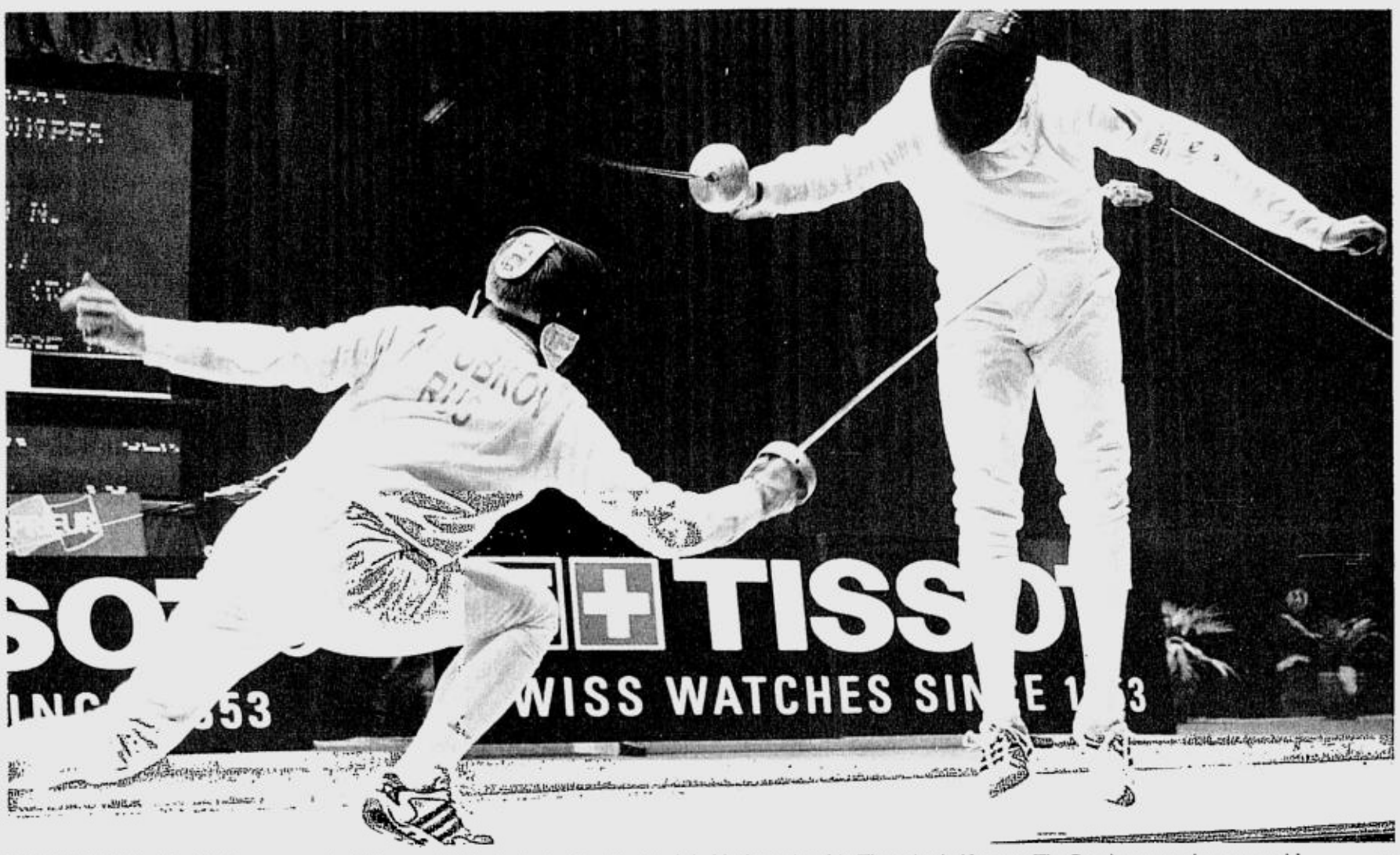
"We will see how we could restore, reproduce or even replicate the damaged memorabilia before returning them to the owners," said Eala.

A PBA insider, who refused to be identified, said that, while Poe could be held liable, full responsibility directly goes to Bernardino, who retired last year due to health problems.

"I feel sorry for Jun B. I know he didn't have a direct hand in this but ultimately the responsibility must go all the way to the top," he said.

Sen. Robert Jaworski, the most illustrious member of the PBA's 25 greatest, openly criticized the league for its failure to keep the memorabilia in mint condition.

The mess also drew the ire of PBA greats Ramon Fernandez, Philip Cezar, Abet Guidaben and Bogs Adornado among others.



RUSSIAN P. Kolobkov (left) scores against German C. Kneip during the Fencing World Championship Thursday in Havana. The Russians won the team gold. AFP

Gutang leads big 1-2-3 NDF finish

CARLO Gutang, Jay Navarro and Alex Perez of Team NDF swept the top three places in the Ultron National Rallycross Series held last Sunday in Clark Field, Angeles City.

Gutang and Navarro, sharing a Toyota Corolla, finished 1-2, with Navarro coming in just one-tenth of a second short of the former's 1-minute and 1.18-second run in the NRC 19 category.

Nevertheless, Navarro's 1-minute and 9.19-second finish was equally stunning in the RP 14 class.

Placing second in the NRC class was Perez who drove his Honda Civic to an asphalt-scraping run of 1:09.56 seconds. Dindo de Jesus of Team SM Bonus finished third in the NRC 19 with a time of 1:10.11.

Tarmac racers again ruled the rallycross.

Ivan Isada of Team Ultron gave way to Gutang in the overall rankings, although by a slim 1 point. Trailing closely is Kenneth Dominado with 29 points.

Dominado maintains his lead in the driver's championship standing, followed by Perez and Isada.

Carlos Castañeda ruled the Open category in 56.99 seconds.

Paolo Arespacochaga topped the Modified Novice category in 58.33, followed by Steven Tan and Mar Medina.

Coach Baby also taught them how to live right

By Dennis Eroa

EIGTH days before turning 80, the winningest coach in the land still refused to take credit for a very memorable career.

"My players made me. I didn't make them," Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan, owner of 49 championships (15 in the PBA), mumbled shyly during testimonials for him yesterday by ex-Crispa Redmanizers at the SCOOP Forum at the Kamayan on West Avenue, Quezon City.

He will be honored in an affair called "Tribute to the Maestro" on Oct. 15 at UE's Dalupan Hall. It will chronicle Dalupan's achievements from the collegiate, commercial and professional circuit.

Caloocan City vice mayor Tito Varela, former San Juan Vice Mayor Philip Cezar, Willy Tanduyan, Mon Cruz and Rey Franco, now president of a family-owned manpower placement business, attended the Forum and heaped praises on their former mentor.

They all agreed. Dalupan taught them not just basketball skills, but also how to become better citizens and family men.

"Like Mr. Danny Floro, he's (Dalupan) like a father to us. He is a disciplinarian and this trait made us better men," said Cezar, who is known for his umbrella defense during his prime.

Cezar said there was no "star system" during Dalupan's time.

"He treated all the players equally," he said.

Varela confirmed that Dalupan's words had helped him greatly in his political career.

"One of the things which I learned from him was how to handle personal and family problems properly. I owe a lot to coach Baby," said Varela.

"Coach Baby is a disciplinarian, but very soft-hearted outside the playing court," said Varela.

The 53-year-old Franco said Dalupan and his wife Nena guided his family to a better life.

Still, the most memorable quote about the famous Redmanizers was the one from the late Danny Floro: "Coach Baby disciplines my players, I spoil them."

TWICE QUICKEST MOH Speed's Joey Galang emerges as Quick 8 and PRO class champion in the fourth leg of Blaze Shootout Drag Race Championship Series held recently in Clark Field, Pampanga.

Jaworski to fire off Avia Run Sunday

JAWORSKI

CLOSE to 2,000 runners, some of them preparing for the grand finals of the national marathon, will answer the starting gun when the Avia USA 10K Run comes off the wraps on Sunday at the PICC Grounds.

Sen. Robert Jaworski, chair of the Senate committee on youth and sports, will fire off the starting gun at 6 a.m. in the event billed as a festive running experience for both the competitive and fun runners.

Race organizer Rudy Biscocho has informed the participants to be at the race venue by 4 a.m. for the distribution of race jerseys.

To grace the race kickoff are the 80-member St. Anthony's School Cheering group, a rock band and a number of spectators.

Avia USA advertising and promotions manager Rellie de Leon said he is thrilled that the Avia USA 10K has been well received by runners.

"We never expected it to be this huge," said De Leon. "This early, we are already considering to make this race a yearly affair, something that we expect to grow even bigger in the years to come."

The 10K run will be formally launched at 6 p.m. today at the second floor of The Podium, Ortigas Center, with movie actress Aubrey Miles and other Avia USA celebrity endorsers joining the rites. The celebrities will also vie in the 5K side-event tomorrow.

Biscocho said tomorrow's race is slowly turning to be a preview of the upcoming Milo Marathon grand finals since most of those vying for cash prizes totaling P80,000 are Milo regional and Metro Manila finalists.

The 10K men's race is expected to be a contest among Cresenciano Sabal, Reynaldo delos Reyes, Edgardo Lapasigue, Simon Bolivar, Alquin Bolivar and Romeo Marquez.

In the women's run, Maricar Gammad, Gloria Diaz, Liza Delfin, Enate Sayrol, and Ailyn Tolentino are expected to dominate their Metro Manila counterparts for the top prize.

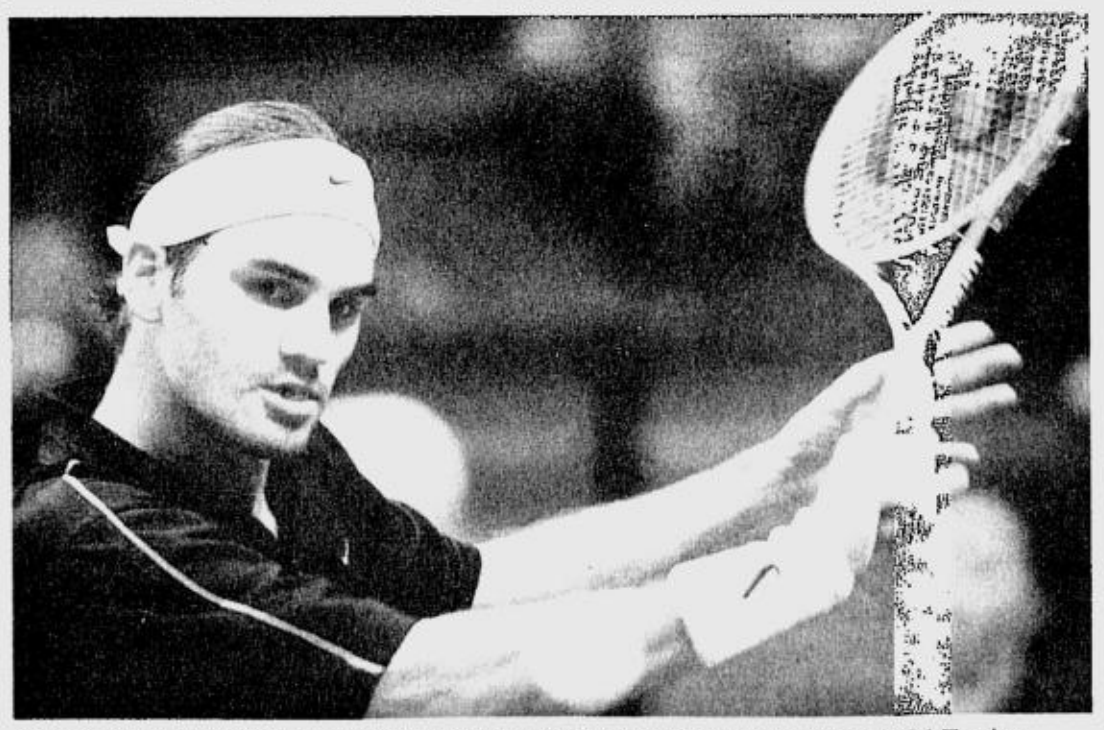
National athletes Eduardo Buenavista, Geraldine Sealza and Christabel Martes will not be seeing action as they are concentrating on their training for the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games in December.

The 10K champions in both the men's and women's races will receive P10,000 while the runners-up will take home P6,000.

Third placers will win P4,000, and the fourth placers P2,000. There will also be P1,000 cash prizes for the 5th to 10th placers.

In the 5K event, the champion gets the top purse of P5,000 while the runner-up bags P3,000. Third and fourth finishers pocket P2,000 and P1,000, respectively, while 5th to 10th placers get P500.

A special introductory price for Avia USA shoes will be offered to the participants.



ROGER Federer of Switzerland returns a ball to Karol Beck of Slovakia during their CA-Trophy second round match in Vienna, Thursday. Federer won, 6-3, 4-6, 6-4. REUTERS

Belle golf listing under way

ORGANIZERS are now receiving entries to the Plantation Hills-Midlands golf tournament set Oct. 18 at the Midlands Golf Course in Tagaytay City.

Two-man teams of Plantation Hills lot owners and members of the Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands and their guests are vying in the 18-hole tournament.

The organizing Belle Corp. said deadline for the listing is on Oct. 16 with the tournament fee pegged at P3,500 per team, inclusive of green fees, snacks and a raffle ticket for the awarding ceremonies at the Plantation Hills Farmhouse.

However, late registrants will still have until 6 a.m. on tournament day to sign up. Tee off time is 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. simultaneously on hole 1 and 10 to accommodate the expected big number of participants.

For Plantation Hills lot owners and their guests, the fees will be shouldered by Belle Corp.-Plantation Hills. For inquiries, call (046) 4132639.

Under the two-man scramble format, each team will be strictly made up of a member and a guest although the organizers have allowed the participation of mixed squads composed of male and female players.

Actually, "The Greenlands," site of the residential-farm development also known as the Plantation Hills, has been introduced to the Highlands members, whose overwhelming response augured well for the latest Belle Corp. project.

Belle Corp., developer of the picturesque Tagaytay Highlands and Midlands, is chaired by Benito Tan Guat with Willy Ocier and Hans Sy as vice chairmen. The club president and general manager are Jerry Tiu and Nick Celdran, respectively, with Loy Bernardino as golf director.

The one-day tournament, which is backed by Perfect Smile Laser Whitening, GAOC, Godiva and Fly Ace, is aimed at fostering friendship and goodwill among members of the exclusive residential estates of the Belle Corp. Group.

Events on tap are Group I, to be composed of players with a 0-6 handicap; Group II (7-9); Group III (10-and-above). The ladies division will be an open classification, according to the organizing committee.

Mendoza, Alberto dispute 2nd

ROSARIO, Batangas—All eyes will be on veteran rider Toti Alberto and promising upstart Benjo Mendoza this Sunday as they race for the second place trophy in the Shell Advance Superbike Championships at the Batangas Racing Circuit here.

With the championship already secured by perennial winner Jolet Jao in last month's races, the question now is will Alberto be able to protect his one-point lead over Mendoza in the remaining two races of the series and come out second-best?

"I will do my best," said Alberto of the Ducati Manila team, who is banking on his experience and the power of his Italian bike.

The 22-year-old Mendoza, of Team DSM, is fine-tuning his motorcycle and praying hard for a chance to overtake Alberto in the 10-lap races. He won the ninth race over Jao to draw closer to Alberto.

"It would have been easier if my brother is racing," he said, referring to his elder brother Bernard who is in seventh place. "He could block Toti for me. But unfortunately his bike is still being fixed," he said.

Bernard crashed in the eighth race and wrecked his motorcycle. His bike, a Yamaha R6, will not make it on time for Sunday.

Jao, meanwhile, would still be racing on board his Kawasaki despite his huge 61-point lead over Alberto, a margin that secured him his seventh road racing title going into the last two races. Experts believe he would play a crucial role in determining the second-best rider.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003

SPORTS

PAKISTAN BOXING

Lerio outfoxes tough Thai

KARACHI, Pakistan—Sydney Olympian Arlan Lerio scored a masterful victory over his Thai foe to spark the RP Team-Revicon campaign Wednesday in the tough Green Hill Cup boxing tournament at the P.T. Complex here.

It could have been a two-for-two opening-day win for the national team but Junard Ladon fell prey to faulty manual scoring in his featherweight match against Song Guk of South Korea.

Ladon, 20, of Bago City, was boxing superbly in the first round against his taller rival when lights went out at the coliseum. When power was restored minutes later, the computer used in scoring failed to restart, thus forcing the five judges to resort to manual scoring.

Ladon, who like Lerio bagged a gold medal in the recent 1st Goa Boxing Championships in India, held his ground until the fourth and final round but got the nod of only two judges while three others voted for the South Korean.

Lerio, the pride of Antipas, North Cotabato who counts Gov. Manny Piñol among his benefactors, was scheduled to clash with a South Korean Thursday following his 17-6 bantamweight win over Yutthaphonsut Nongbu of Thailand.

Flyweight Warlito Parrinas, 20, from Cadiz City, was to take on Kim I-hyon of South Korea while Navyman Florencio Ferrer of Bago City was to fight lightweight Somchai Nakbalee of Thailand.

HAND SIGNAL
Australia's Kylie Gerlic flashes a signal to her teammate, Angela Clarke, during their match against Bulgaria at the women's beach volleyball World Championships at Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 9. REUTERS

PSC eyes ₱546-M SEAG fund

THE PHILIPPINE Sports Commission will request Congress for an appropriation of P546 million for the country's hosting of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games.

The amount will cover the expenses for repair and refurbishment of venues, procurement of equipment and supplies, and information technology requirements vital to staging the biennial sportsfest last held in Metro Manila in 1991.

Under the PSC proposal, P356 million will be spent for capital outlays and P40 million for maintenance and other operating expenses for 2004 and P150 million for 2005. However, the Department of Budget and Management is recommending only P30 million for 2004.

Congressmen Generoso DC Tulagan of Pangasinan and Del R. de Guzman of Marikina have already thrown their support to the PSC request for additional funds for the SEAG budget.

"I passionately share the PSC's views on the honor and prestige hosting this biennial meet will bring to our country. It is also our task to identify all possible fund sources for hosting the event," said Representative Tulagan.

"With barely two years to go, I am deeply worried how we can pursue with vigor the vital preparations that will ensure the success of the SEA Games," said Representative De Guzman. "I am supportive of the PSC's proposed measure just so all necessary resources could be marshaled for the SEAG."

PSC chair Eric Buhain thanked both Congressmen for sharing the PSC's concerns.

In its last hosting, the Philippines landed a record second place overall behind Indonesia with 90 golds, 62 silvers and 85 bronzes.

Bodybuilding meet in Lipa

THE KATAWAN Bodybuilding Competition hosted by the Lipa Tourism Council will be held starting at six tonight at the Lipa City Plaza.

There will be three main categories—small, medium and tall—open to all national bodybuilders while the novice class will strictly be for Batangueños only.

Registration for the contest sponsored by the Lipa Fitness Club and the Rotary Club Lipa starts at 9 a.m. today. Interested parties may contact Dadj Cupit at 0919-8297521.

SPORTS noodle

ANSWERS From page A25

1. True
2. Red Bull Barako
3. Spain
4. Monza
5. Solheim Cup
6. Women's trios (Liza Clutario, Cecilia Yap and Liza del Rosario)
7. 115-113

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Stocks end at 16-month high on Bush trip

STOCKS closed at their highest level in more than 16 months yesterday in broad-based buying encouraged by US President George W. Bush's scheduled visit next week.

Analysts said improved US jobs data had also helped as players anticipated that stronger US economic growth in the second half would augur well as the United States is the Philippines' biggest trading partner.

"It's more in anticipation of the Bush visit," said Teresa Lee-Jahrling of Tower Securities.

"I think investors view it positively that the US is strengthening ties with the Philippines." President Bush will also visit Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia and Australia in his Asia trip.

The Philippine stock index surged 41.54 points, or 3.19 percent, to end at 1,345.20 points, the highest close since May 17, 2002.

The index breached its resistance pegged at 1,315 and the most recent intraday high of 1,327 points, pointing to bullish signs going forward, traders said.

Turnover widened to P815.89 million, including cross sales worth P230 million, against Thursday's P503.7 million.

Gainers were in a seven-to-one majority.

"The stronger signs of recovery abroad is pulling us up," said Jose Vistan, analyst at AB Capital Securities Inc.

"The Dow did not react much to the US jobs data because it is already overbought and hovering at 16-month highs," he said.

New applications for US jobless claims dropped to the lowest level in eight months. The Dow Jones industrial average ended up 0.51 percent at a 16-month high.

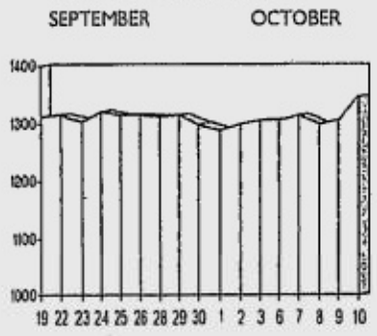
"This rally is in line with the stronger regional markets, which followed overnight gains on Wall Street," said Rommel Macapagal of Westlink Global Equities.

"Buying accelerated after bargain-hunting early in the session pushed the index above resistance at 1,320, which helped establish the momentum," he said.

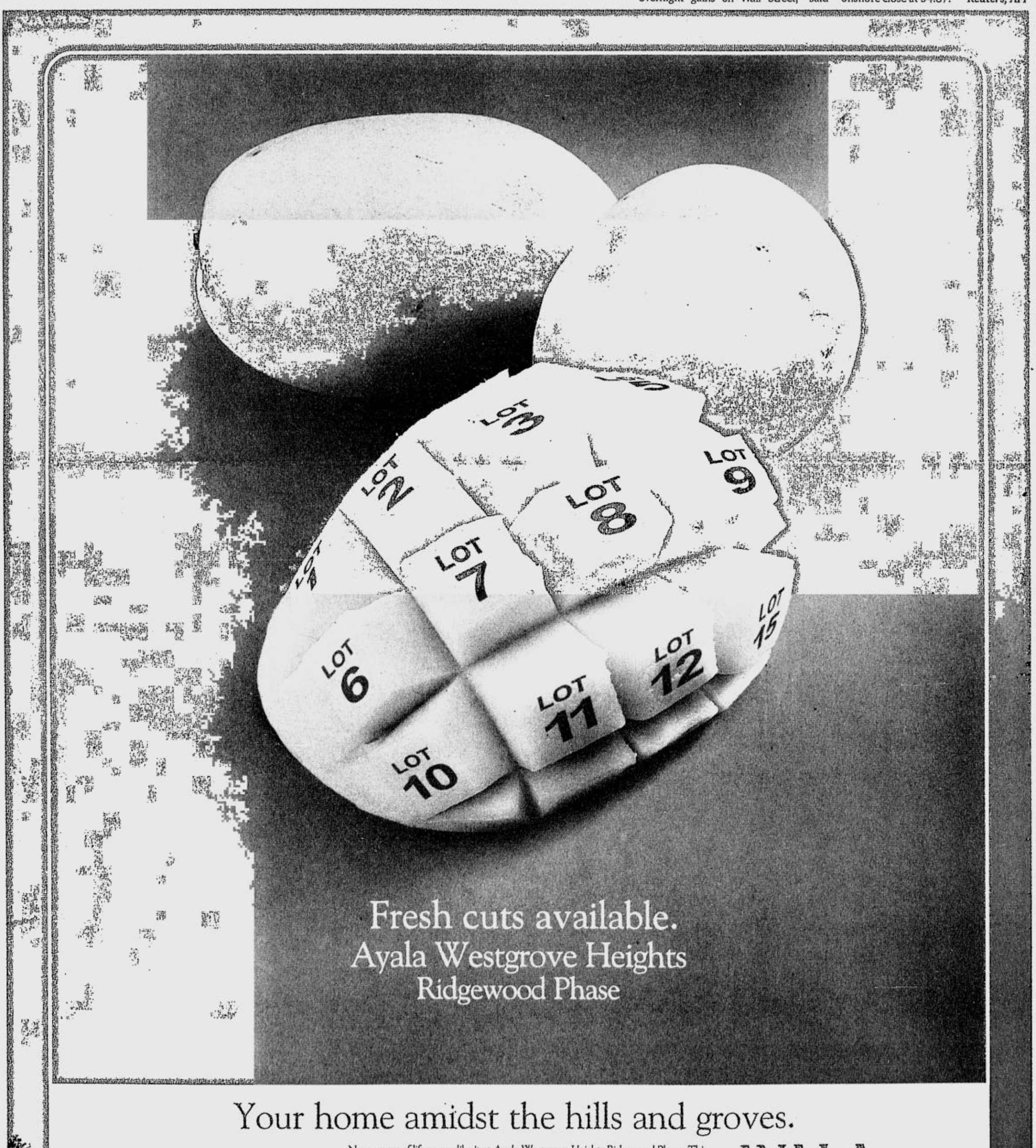
"We lagged recent regional rallies because of our political concerns so we're just catching up," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citiseconline.com.

A recovery in the peso, which was hovering at the 55 to the dollar level in recent days, also buoyed sentiment. The peso hit a high of 54.835 to the dollar in morning trade against its previous onshore close at 54.87. *Reuters, AFP*

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)



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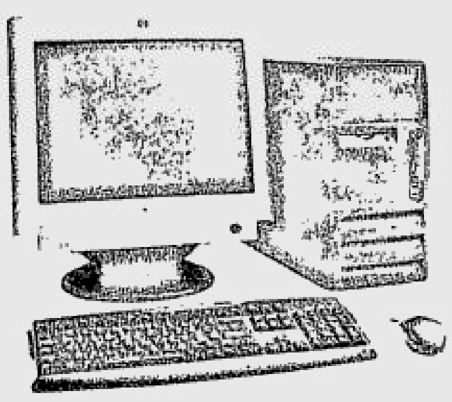

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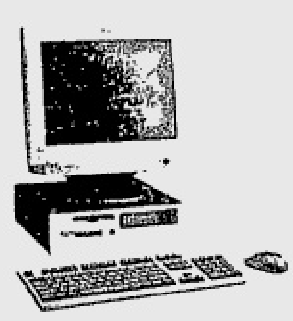

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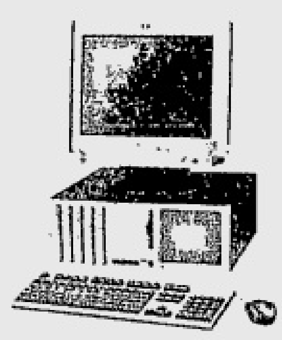

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 10, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	18	17.75	18	18,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	45	43	44.5	1,011,300
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	34.5	33.5	34	151,200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	330,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28.5	27.5	28	428,100
Philippine National Bank	26	27	26	27	202,300
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	4,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	32	32.5	32	32.5	2,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1580	1600	1580	1600	190
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	117,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1250	1265	1250	1260	1,220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26.5	28	26.5	27.5	136,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.67	0.71	0.67	0.71	2,350,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	705	725	700	725	63,950
Island Info and Tech Inc	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.046	7,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	7,800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.74	0.77	0.74	0.77	11,320,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	685	700	685	700	190,440
Ivantage Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	250,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	62,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	15.25	14.75	14.75	686,200
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22.25	22	22.25	2,246,400
*Petron Corp.	2	2.04	2	2.04	5,053,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2	2	2	2	40,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	86,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	1,029,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	190,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	3,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	30	30	43,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	17.25	16.75	17.25	717,500
San Miguel Corp. A	54	56	54	56	186,500
San Miguel Corp. B	61.5	63	61.5	63	660,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.7	4.85	4.7	4.85	9,557,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.4	3.45	3.35	3.45	3,608,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.034	0.031	0.034	2,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.65	0.61	0.64	7,180,000
Basic Consolidated Inc	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	660,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	2,370,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.02	0.033	0.02	0.033	3,400,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18	18.75	18	18.75	1,285,800
Ionics Inc.	1.7	1.72	1.66	1.72	678,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	150,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.97	1.06	0.97	1.06	32,650,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	2,060,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	3,520,000
Nextstage Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	263,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,000,000
Uniol Res. & Holdings Co.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	400,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2,400,000
Wellex Industries Inc	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.34	0.35	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	12,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.98	1	0.98	0.98	90,000
Picop Resources Inc	0.0775	0.095	0.0775	0.095	1,300,000
Pryce Corp.	0.16	0.2	0.16	0.2	770,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	9,790,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	250,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	27.5	28.5	27.5	28	631,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	80,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	5	5	21,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	10,558,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	800,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	15,000
C & P Homes Inc	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	2,330,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.19	1,330,000
Empire East Land Inc	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	10,290,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	2,170,000
Filinvest Land Inc	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	7,690,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
Kuok Phil Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.17	0.18	740,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.7	6.4	6.7	24,705,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	13,810,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.235	0.225	0.23	11,820,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng Co B	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.28	20,550,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.008	0.0085	0.0075	0.0085	298,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.008	0.009	0.008	0.009	334,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	34,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	790,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.36	2,830,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	650,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,269,010	70,316,515.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	270,034,190	482,929,615.00
PRO	61,028,000	244,243,460.00
Mining	715,850,000	17,972,050.00
OIL	16,670,000	152,700.00
GRAND TOTALS	1,065,851,200	815,614,340.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	445.40	UP 10.21
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,971.75	UP 57.78
PRO	592.37	UP 23.95
Mining	1,601.81	UP 82.85
OIL	1.39	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	814.10	UP 12.80
Composite	1,345.20	UP 41.54

NO. OF ADVANCES: 60; NO. OF DECLINES: 8; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 34; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 102; NO. OF TRADES: 3,119

CURRENCIES

October 10, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.851716208	1.000000	54.963000
Japan	Yen	0.00781	0.009170	0.504000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.418789	1.665800	91.557400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110243	0.129436	7.114200
Switzerland	Franc	0.646366	0.758898	41.711300
Canada	Dollar	0.635798	0.746491	41.029400
Singapore	Dollar	0.493978	0.579979	31.877400
Australia	Dollar	0.585573	0.687521	37.788200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.259254	2.652590	145.794300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.227131	0.266674	14.657200
Brunei	Dollar	0.492549	0.578302	31.785200
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000119	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.02176	0.025549	1.404200
UAE	Dirham	0.231904	0.272279	14.965300
Euro	Euro	1	1.174100	64.532100
ArgentinaPeso	0.299373	0.351494	19.319200	
Brazil	REAL	0.300641	0.352983	19.401000
Denmark	Kroner	0.134621	0.158058	8.687300
India	Rupee	0.018848	0.022129	1.216300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224166	0.263193	14.465900
Mexico	New Peso	0.075863	0.089071	4.895600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.509339	0.598015	32.868700
Norway	Kroner	0.121547	0.142708	7.843700
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014812	0.017391	0.955900
South Africa	Rand	0.123257	0.144716	7.954000
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.000871	0.047900
Sweden	Kroner	0.111299	0.130676	7.182300
Syria	Pound	0.020279	0.023810	1.308700
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025326	0.029735	1.634300
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000534	0.000627	0.034500

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BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WHAT I liked best about the last UAAP men's basketball finals was that I got in touch again with my femini...este, no, what am I saying here, not that side of me.

Seriously, I just saw some old friends from school who, before I knew it, suddenly looked 53 or so generations older than my great grandfather. When I say "old friends," they were those so close enough to me, they never hesitated to ask me to my face a profoundly personal question.

And that is, which one between my two younger basketball coach brothers, Joel and Koy, I was most likely going to kidnap only for a couple of hours.

***

I AM sure you know the reason, unless of course you already buried yourself alive because of too much politics. Anyway, in the finals, Joel was head coach of the Ateneo Blue Eagles, and Koy, the FEU Tamaraws.

I'm not sure what my old, grayed friends hinted, but I would never ask Koy to meet me at Room 305 at the Galleria Suites for lunch on game day itself.

I booked the room, sure, but I would not think of handcuffing Koy there for a few hours as I watched the game at the Big Dome. It never crossed my mind. Honest!

***

I KNOW that I am starting to sound funny like somebody we all know. She made a public confession that she was running in 2004 because of too much pressure.

Supposedly, according to reports, the so-called pressure comes from the business community. Hmm.

I don't know whether or not anybody in the government even bothers with the views of business. I am just curious about what kind of business exerted the "pressure."

Maybe they are some law firms, or perhaps the contractors of the Diosdado Macapagal Ave., or the banks with the Joe "P" accounts. Hard to say!

***

NOBODY had any plan—even just a plan, mind you—for any major investment in the past couple of years.

Yet the spin doctors are telling us that business is dying to have more of the same style of uninspiring, directionless governance.

It is true that our favorite "somebody," who easily gives in to pressure, particularly from business, once taught at the school where Joel was head coach.

Still, it never even entered my mind to kidnap Koy, and although they refused the invitation, I did not even mean to invite the entire FEU Tamaraws to an all-night drinking bout before the championship game.

***

FOR the record, I did not take sides in the UAAP finals. I only mentioned in passing to my mother that she must order Koy to stop giving his level best, that's all.

Look, years from now, when I run for president of our homeowners association, the Supreme Court can suddenly order my mother to reopen the case. Then the police force does an elaborate plan for my arrest, even before the court issues a warrant and even before the case is raffled off. And all the trouble for what?

Just because, no matter how lousy the Blue Eagles were in any particular season, whenever they lost a single freaking UAAP game, I always got drunk just by accident?

***

AND that is the reason why I did not become a basketball coach like my two younger brothers. It's impossible to win all your games. I would have become an alcoholic.

In fact, Henry "Big Boy" Sy Jr., the eldest son of taipan Henry "Tatang" Sy, once told me to try coaching, too.

I hate to disappoint you, Big Boy, but I intend to live long. I can easily die from all the "pressure." And I cannot even relieve myself of it by running in 2004.

Coaching, like anything with the word "competition" in it, is a stressful job. Both my brothers are losing their hair due to basketball. I merely lost mine, period.

***

IF you don't believe me, just take a look at one of my adopted fathers, the legendary basketball coach Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan, who is turning 80 years old this Oct. 15.

Baby Dalupan, THE Coach, was my coach in college basketball. Like most men who take me under their wings, THE Coach treated me like a son, as part of his family.

Next week, the Dalupan family will launch an exhibit, entitled "A Tribute To The Maestro," at the UE campus on Recto Avenue in Manila. I am not sure what to expect from the exhibit, but now I will have tow every boy in my basketball fanatic family along to see it. After all, THE Coach only revolutionized basketball in this country. Guys like him showed the way to the future generation, to guys like Joel and Koy. And they didn't even have to kidnap anybody.

Net inflow of hot money up 127%

THE NET inflow of foreign portfolio investments in the first nine months this year rose 127.4 percent from year-ago level, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

The BSP said that the net inflow reached $423.5 million in January to September, up from $186.2 million last year.

In September, alone, portfolio investments posted a net inflow of $72.1 million or almost double the previous month's level, BSP Deputy Governor Alberto Reyes said. He added that the September figure was also a turnaround from the $12.8 in net outflow in the same month last year.

"Investments by non-residents in government securities/money market instruments and in peso bank deposits netted inflows of $159.3 million and $293.6 million respectively," the BSP said.

July registered the highest net inflow of $82.8 million, the highest monthly figure for the year.

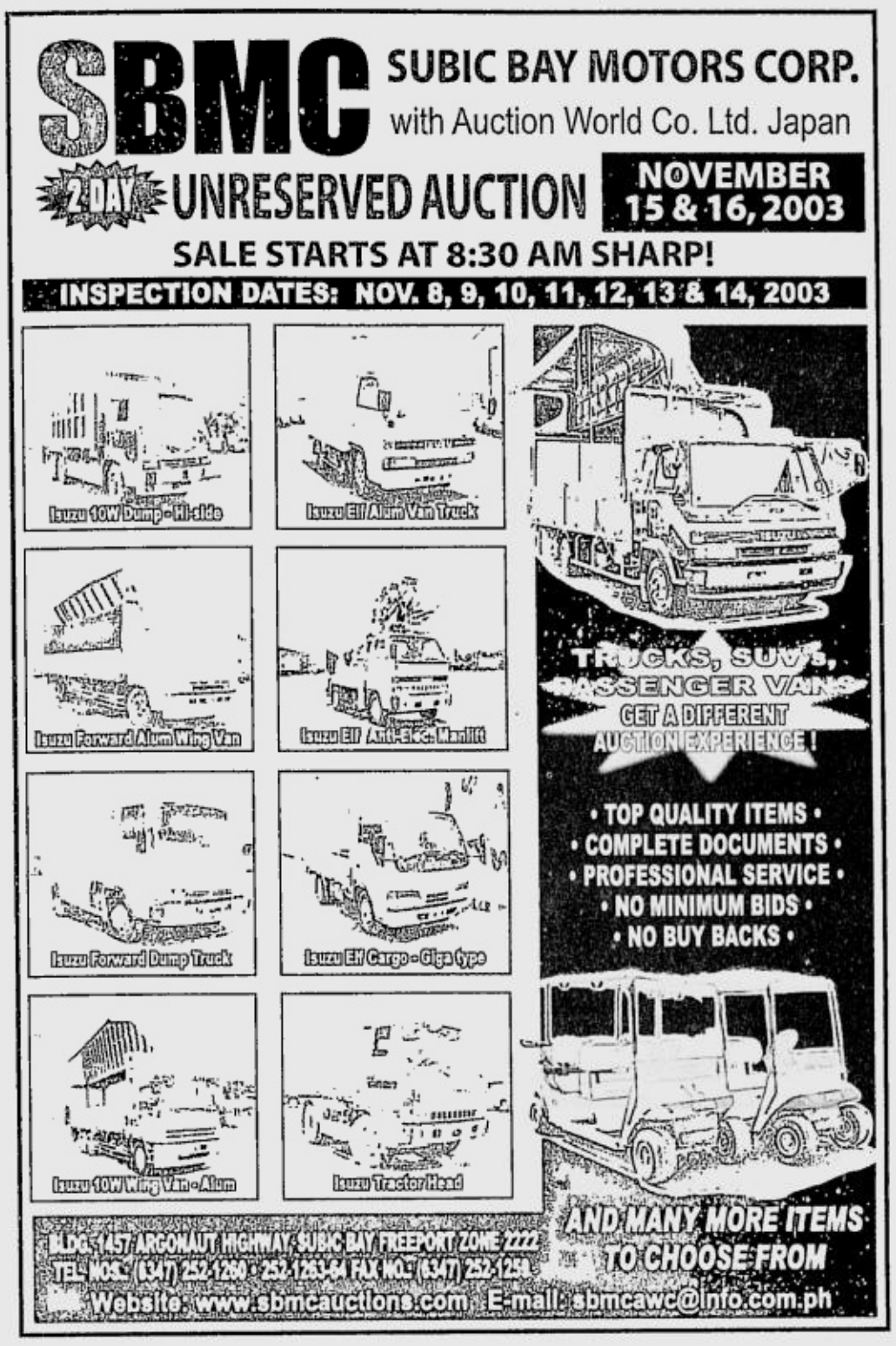
"This development was attributed mainly to strong gains on Wall Street, reports on lower than programmed deficit for the first half of the year, the decline in domestic interest rates and improved custom collections," the bank said.

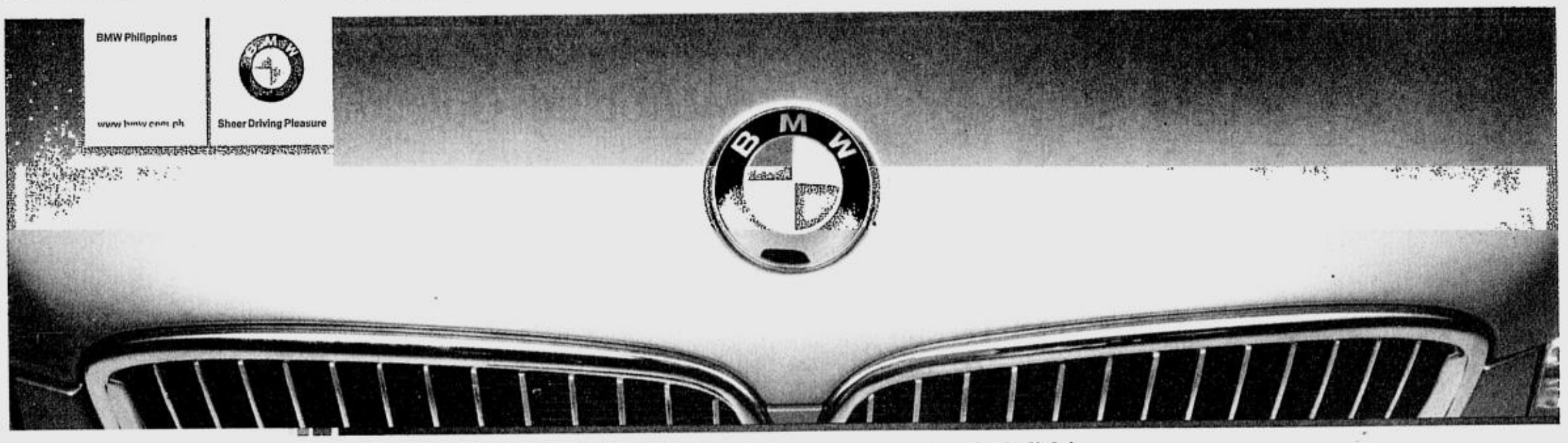
Sources said investors took advantage of the increase in interest rates and in equity bargains.

August had the lowest net inflow of $38.2 million, likely due to political concerns after a failed mutiny by soldiers on July 27.

The level of portfolio investments is an indicator of investor confidence in the economy.

The BSP's portfolio investment figures came from Citibank, Standard & Chartered Bank, Deutsche Bank, HSBC and ING Barings. These five banks accounted for 95 percent of total foreign fund flow. *Clarissa S. Batino and Reuters.*





Now is the time to move up to BMW.

The marque of a wise investor.

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to advise you of some wonderful news.

On 3 October 2003, the new excise tax law for automobiles became effective. Since then, BMW has re-aligned all its prices.

Whilst the last few months have been confusing perhaps, please be guided by the following facts:

- BMW has constantly informed you of its stance on pricing and possible impacts due to excise taxes and currency fluctuations, over the last few months.
- BMW was the first to signal its support of the new tax structure by lowering the prices of 316i and 318i models, even before the new tax was implemented.
- BMW signified also that the prices of the 316i and 318i models would not be lowered further, and we remain true to this statement.
- BMW's new re-aligned prices, effective 3 October 2003, support the Government's thrust to lower the prices of passenger cars in the Philippines.
- BMW advises customers that such prices cannot remain indefinitely due to high Peso devaluation against major overseas currencies, most notably the Euro.
- BMW and its Authorized Dealer network provide genuine peace of mind and customer assurance through correctly paid taxes and duties on all its vehicles; full 2-year warranty; emergency roadside assistance; and mobility programs – benefits you will not receive through the grey market!
- BMW Philippines Corporation is a subsidiary of BMW Group, Germany.

So what does this mean for you?

- Prices cannot be lower than they are now, and a price increase can be expected within a matter of months.
- We remain the marque of the wise investor, and now is a very wise time to invest because supply is limited and we expect demand to be high – due to our new re-aligned prices and the launch of our new models.

We look forward to welcoming you as a BMW owner and for you to enjoy Sheer Driving Pleasure!

Visit your nearest Authorized BMW Dealer for more details.

Sincerely,

Mark Gilbert
President
BMW Philippines

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Tel. (02) 892 8127 • Fax (02) 816 7325

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Tel. (02) 727 0381 • Fax (02) 727 0101

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Tel. (032) 256 3491 • Fax (032) 256 3492

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Uncircumcised men have higher risk for HIV infection, says study

LOS ANGELES—Uncircumcised men are eight times as likely to become infected with HIV than circumcised men, according to a study of nearly 2,300 men in India released on Thursday.

A researcher at Baltimore's Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine suggested that the inner surface of the foreskin does not have the same protective layer as the outside, and is potentially more vulnerable to HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

Male circumcision is common in North America and elsewhere for religious and cultural reasons and to help prevent urinary tract infections and penile cancer.

The procedure involves removal of the foreskin, which covers the tip of the penis, and is typically done shortly after birth.

In the United States, some two-thirds of male infants are circumcised annually. Worldwide, the rates vary widely, depending on culture and religion. In many countries, including India, circumcision is uncommon.

"It's important that we offer measures to help curb the spread of AIDS, particularly in developing countries, where it continues to grow at an alarming rate," Dr. Steven Reynolds, postdoctoral fellow in the division of infectious diseases at Johns Hopkins and a study investigator, said in a statement.

The American Academy of Pediatrics has said it no longer recommends routine circumcision because—despite some medical benefit—there can be complications.

Johns Hopkins also studied the risk of other sexually transmitted diseases among circumcised and uncircumcised men.

Although the incidence of diseases like syphilis, gonorrhea and genital herpes was slightly higher among uncircumcised men, the difference was not statistically significant.

The research was part of a larger study investigating risk factors for HIV infection based on men attending one of three sexually transmitted disease clinics in Pune, India between 1993 and 2000.

Demographics, sexual risk behaviors—including having sex with a prostitute—and condom use were similar between both groups, Reynolds said.

He added that there are methods uncircumcised men may be able to use to protect themselves against HIV, including condoms and, in the future, a potential topical microbicide product that might be applied to the foreskin before sex.

"Circumcision as a potential prevention strategy requires confirmation by randomized clinical trials," Reynolds said.

There currently are clinical trials underway in Uganda, Kenya and South Africa.

Results of the study were presented during a San Diego meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America.

Reuters

DOH to 'advertise' generic medicines

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

MALOLOS, Bulacan—To help the country's generic drugs program succeed, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said the DOH will help local drug manufacturers promote their high-quality but less expensive products.

"If we don't advertise, nobody will know about these unbranded generics," Dayrit said during a tour of three drug manufacturing plants in this province last Tuesday.

Dayrit visited Lloyd Laboratories Inc., Syn Penn Research Inc. and Pascual Laboratories Inc. He said these Filipino-owned drug firms have passed the good manufacturing practices standard set by the Bureau of Food and Drug (BFAD).

"We are seriously looking at working with our local drug industry to promote their products so that eventually they develop name recognition," Dayrit explained.

DOH-certified

The three firms were licensed by the BFAD and the DOH to market high-quality, low-priced medicines in the country.

Lloyd Laboratories, with its 3.5-hectare ISO 9002-certified facility in Malolos, is one of the country's fastest growing company manufacturing pharmaceuticals and health products.

Synn Penn Research is a leading manufacturer of various penicillin products under different brand names.

Pascual Laboratories in Balagtas town was ranked recently by the International Monitoring System Philippines as the 18th largest pharmaceutical corporate group in the country in terms of drugstore sales and is the second largest among Filipino-owned pharmaceutical companies.

DOH hotline

Dayrit also said the DOH has put up a hotline (711-4094) which people with drug prescriptions can call for advice on where to buy high-quality but low-priced generic medicines.

Said the health secretary: "Right now we get about 50 calls a day. To make this hotline work more efficiently, we are building up our information database so that eventually we can transform this into a full-blown call center."

He added that the hotline is DOH's way of advertising unbranded generics to the public.

"Drug firms promote their products; they come out with advertisements and do endorsements with doctors," Dayrit said.

This promotional cost is what makes their products more expensive than similarly manufactured unbranded generics, he explained. "Part of what we are doing right now is to popularize generic medicines to the public without placing additional cost to the product."

P60-B industry

The pharmaceutical industry in the Philippines, Dayrit said, is a P60-billion business, yet only 40 percent of Filipinos can afford to buy most of their products. More than half of the population can't buy even their lowest-priced medicines.

HEALTH Secretary Manuel Dayrit jump-starts the government's renewed campaign to promote generic drugs by inspecting the facilities of some local generics manufacturers earlier this week.

The secretary based this estimate on the National Statistics Office's Family and Income Expenditure Survey which revealed that about 34 percent of the population were living below the poverty line.

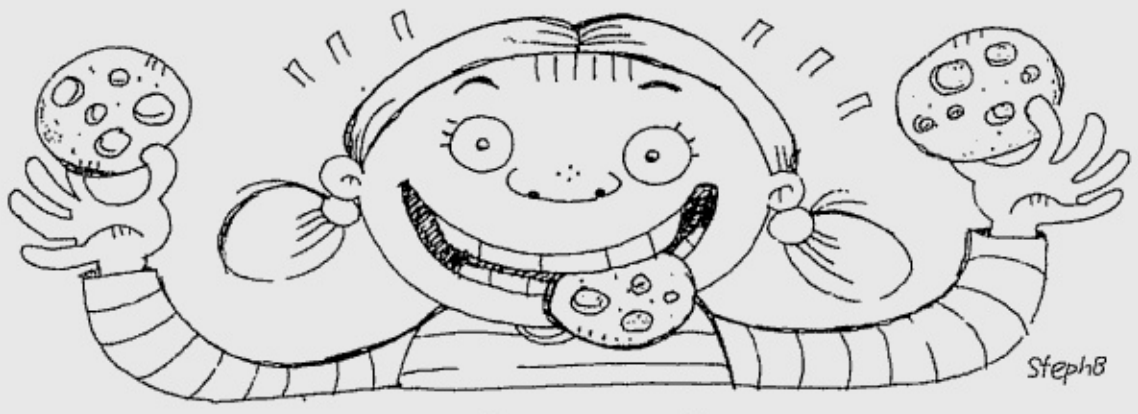
To make high-quality medicines more affordable to Filipinos, the government has embarked on four other programs.

The first involves the parallel importation of branded or generic medicines from India to prompt drug companies that sell highly priced brands in the Philippines to bring down their prices.

The second program is the Botika ng Barangay, a community-based endeavor that encourages communities to go into drugstore cooperatives. There are now over 500 such drugstores in the country, but given the 40,000 barangays nationwide, Dayrit admitted the government still has a long way to go.

The third is where the DOH encourages local drug manufacturers to market high-quality low-priced medicines.

The fourth program is the giving of free donated medicines to indigents.



C is for cookie

DISCOVER

Massie Santos Ballon

I USED to have a "Got milk?" poster that showed a forlorn-looking Cookie Monster surrounded by piles of cookies. I've never seen Cookie Monster drink, much less dunk cookies, but I guess there's a first time for everything.

Four years ago, a British physicist by the name of Len Fisher at the University of Bristol won an Ig Nobel Prize (more on these awards in a future column) for determining the angle at which one must dunk a cookie into the liquid of one's choice to get extra flavor without having the cookie dissolve into the drink.

Months later Dr. Fisher was back in the news for showing just how cold, milk-based drinks impart more flavor to cookies than do hot coffee and tea, while sodas take the flavor away.

Because of Dr. Fisher we now know how to properly dunk cookies and get maximum flavor from them.

Why the cookie crumbles

Unfortunately, no one has told us why cookies sometimes break into pieces when they come out of their packaging. Part of the blame is often attributed to shipping and shelving procedures. Anyone who has seen how luggage and boxes are moved in airports shouldn't be surprised to find that many things aren't always handled with care.

Now we have a new culprit: the hot, moisture-reducing ovens used by cookie manufacturers. At least, that's what British graduate student (what is it with Brits and their biscuits anyway?) Qasim Saleem at the Wolfson School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering at Loughborough University says.

I'm not exactly sure what his Ph.D. thesis is, but it is apparently related to the question why the cookie crumbles. His paper on the subject appears in this month's issue of the journal Measurement Science and Technology.

Stress causes cracks

Saleem attributes the crumbling to high baking temperatures. As the cookie cools, its edges dry out and expand, causing the moisture at the center to spread out and contract. The stress causes the cookie to crack and eventually break up, which is known as biscuit checking.

Now you know why so many recipes call for lard and butter—it isn't just the added flavor, it is the added moisture.

Saleem also points out that other studies have shown that low-fat cookies with a fat-to-flour ratio of 15:100 are more likely to break compared to cookies with higher fat content.

In an age when people are health- and weight-conscious, keeping cookies whole without adding fat is a big deal.

There is a billion-dollar industry at stake here, after all. Cookie manufacturers will tell you it's not cost-effective to throw out broken cookies so that their customer base doesn't decide to buy cookies that are attractively whole when the package is opened.

Keeping cookies moist

Saleem and his co-author/adviser, Dr. Ricky Wildman, suggested baking the cookies at lower temperatures for longer time periods so that the cookies are moist all the way around.

As Saleem said in his university's press release, "This [study] will help biscuit manufacturers adjust the humidity or temperature of their factory production lines to change the cooling process in such a way that the biscuits won't break up due to normal handling, hence producing the perfect biscuit."

To reach this conclusion, Saleem baked over 100 biscuits.

His recipe says that the flour:fat:sugar ratio was 100:12:21, so I'm thinking the end product was somewhere in between leavened shortbread and a pancake.

He then applied speckle interferometry to detect changes in the moisture levels and surfaces of the biscuits.

Aiming laser beams

The speckle interferometry system looks cool on paper and essentially aims laser beams at a test object to examine its surface. The biscuits were individually examined under the light as they cooled, and examination periods varied from just a few minutes to a couple of days. Some biscuits were even crushed to determine their moisture content.

Dr. Wildman told the BBC that none of the biscuits baked for the study were eaten afterward. I'm not surprised; stale cookie crumbs just aren't palatable.

And if this entire column has made you yearn for some homemade cookies, keep in mind what we've learned: use apple sauce instead of oil for lower fat content without losing moisture; bake at a lower temperature for a longer period, and make sure you have a large mug of chocolate milk to dunk the cookies in as soon as they're cool enough to handle.

Cookie Monster may not be a fan of the resulting moist and chewy cookies, but then again he's never had a cookie that hasn't crumbled in his hand.

E-mail the author at massie@massie.com.

Metrobank Outstanding Teachers: high school level

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

(Third of four parts)

FOR THE PAST two weeks we discussed the lives and works of this year's Metrobank Outstanding Teacher awardees in the elementary and high school levels. We continue with the other high school awardees.

Renato N. Carvajal, after 29 years of service, is the fourth awardee from the Ateneo de Manila High School in Quezon City. Specializing in religion and values education, he frequently conducts seminar-workshops on catechetical methods and values integration, and has produced textbooks and instructional materials like the "Jesus Series" for grade school. These books are used in the Philippines and in neighboring Asian countries.

Creative lectures

The editor and consultant of youth-oriented magazines such as Youth Today, The Gospel and You, Word and Life, Gospel Komiks, Youth Options, and Kids Plus, he has lectured creatively on the sacraments, and his lesson plans have become the basis of a project for the Communications Foundation for Asia.

Mr. Carvajal continues to serve actively in the community, as the facilitator of the Center for Leadership, founding president of the Catechetical Media Network-Asia and editor in chief of the Foundation for Christ Love-Asia. He has also won the Catholic Mass Media Award for short story.

He came from a poor family, but "poverty did not deter me from dreaming and dreaming big." The son of a school janitor (who at Grade 5 did not yet learn how to spell), he was a *pan de sal* vendor at 6, a shoeshine boy at 8, a sacristan at 10, and a teacher at 19.

For Mr. Carvajal, Christ is the teacher par excellence. "He mastered His subject matter (the Good News), He knew and loved His students (listeners) and was aware of their context (spoke in parables about things in ways they could understand). He used the most engaging technique of all time (story-telling). Above all, He gave witness to what He taught. In His person, the message and the medium were one. That was His source of authority as a teacher."

Researcher-trainer

Evelyn M. Sorolla, Ph.D., after 22 years of service, is the first awardee from Iloilo National High School.

Specializing in research, she has been instrumental in the development of the School for the Arts program. She has frequently served as a regional teacher trainer, developed instructional materials in Home Economics used throughout the region, and taught research in Special Science classes.

A recipient of the Study-Now-Pay-Later Plan in college, she pioneered the implementation of the "Balik-Paaralan Para sa Out-of-School Adults" program.

"The greatest constraint I faced was the negative attitude of students toward research," she said. "I was able to deal with it through varied and creative strategies that made research work simpler, concrete and understandable to high school kids.

"These included the modular approach, exposure trips and workshops based on the thesis writing guide I developed. I am committed to the teaching profession, and I readily accept responsibility and do my best. I am also creative and flexible enough to try new ways of doing things. But above all, I am a compassionate, motherly teacher who cares for and empathizes with my students."

Dr. Sorolla was one of the Ten Outstanding Teachers in the division of Iloilo for school year 2001-2002, and recently won the Academic Chair Teacher's Excellence Award.

Biology specialist

Dahlia F. Fabillar, after 22 years of service, is the first awardee from the Alubijid National High School in Alubijid, Misamis Oriental.

Specializing in biology, she led in the implementation of the 1990 Secondary Education Development Program as Regional Technology and Home Economics 1 trainer in Northern Mindanao.

She facilitated several workshops on teaching strategies in the Philippine-Australian Project for Basic Education, produced materials for teaching science and technology in the region, and served as camp director of the annual Science Camp of the Special Science Curriculum. She was chair of the DECS sa Barangay program and had continued to remain active in religious activities in the community.

This is her advice to her students, and to the Filipino youth: "You are the hope of our fatherland, as Dr. Jose Rizal would say. We, your teachers, are only instruments in realizing that hope. We give you necessary knowledge and skills, and harness your talents to the fullest so you will be able to face challenges.

"Your time will come to make our country peaceful and a place worth living in. That's why I am asking you to be serious in your studies. Maximize your learning. You are aware of our country's problems and I hope you will not aggravate those problems. Be responsible. Do your share in making our country great. You can make it!"

More erectile dysfunction drugs available in market

Text and photo by Charles E. Buban

IN MOST societies male partners are traditionally seen as independent, strong, self-reliant, competitive, achievement-oriented, powerful, adventurous and emotionally restrained.

But a loss, particularly of one that concerns their sexuality, impacts negatively on their general well-being, affecting even the way they relate to their partners.

BROCK

"Sexual intercourse is the most intimate form of human communication, encompassing the psychological, emotional, social, spiritual and cultural realms of personality," said Dr. P. Ganesan Adaikan of the National University Hospital of Singapore and president of the International Society for Sexual and Impotence Research.

Speaking during the Lilly symposium on erectile dysfunction last week, Adaikan explained that losing one's ability to perform the sexual act because of erectile dysfunction (ED) can impact on a man's self-confidence, making him more depressed and sometimes resorting to violence.

Common condition

ED is defined as the total inability to achieve erection, an inconsistent ability to do so or a tendency to sustain only brief erections.

It is, however, a treatable condition, and something that men should not be embarrassed to tell their doctor about. It is also not a natural part of aging, said Dr. Gerard Brock of the University of Western Ontario in Canada and chair of the Canadian Male Sexual Health Council.

Brock, who spoke during the same forum, said over half of all males between 40 and 70 years experience ED, making it the most common chronic condition affecting men. But because of embarrassment or lack of information about ED, only about 10 percent get proper treatment.

Medical miracle

When Pfizer launched Viagra in 1998, the drug was hailed as a medical miracle for men, and its impact on men's sexual behavior was considered revolutionary.

"The number of men who were coming forward and asking for help for their sexual function had increased," said Brock.

Since then, drugs for treating ED grew in number. Now available in the market are Levitra (Bayer and Glaxo-SmithKline) and Cialis (Eli Lilly & Co.).

Viagra (sildenafil citrate) and Levitra (vardenafil) have similar chemical structures and function in similar ways—both take effect within a half an hour to an hour after being taken and last about four to six hours.

Cialis (tadalafil), like the two drugs, encourages blood flow to the penis but lasts for 24 to 36 hours. Results of an independent study by a German urologist which compared Cialis and Viagra found that of the 226 participants, 66 percent preferred Cialis, mainly because of the duration of its effectiveness and fewer side effects.

More choices

"With these three drugs, we are giving patients more choices and this is important since there may be patients who may respond better to one drug than to others," said Brock.

"Some people may respond immediately, some may not. So I tell my patients to try a particular drug at least four times before they tell me if it is really working for them and if not, to switch to another," he added.

Brock said that within the next five years, there will be a dramatic improvement in terms of what doctors can offer men with ED.

"I see an even increased number of men who will come forward, changes on how the media is going to report issues regarding ED and more cultures opening up to the realities of ED," he said.

"Right now, ED is still something most men don't want to talk about even in the most progressive societies," Brock noted.

Good news for heart patients

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

TIME was when patients who had heart disease and had survived a heart attack felt helpless about their condition. Until the '80s, the risk of having another heart attack after a first one or going into heart failure was simply too high.

Times have changed though. Modern medicine has provided new breakthrough drugs and new information on old drugs and this can help heart patients reduce the chances of having another heart attack, heart failure and even sudden death.

MEDICAL FILES

What are these medicines heart patients can seek succor from?

There's good old aspirin, a blood thinner; beta-blockers, which function as some sort of an "energy-saver" that reduces the oxygen consumption of the heart; statins and other cholesterol-modulating agents (including the humble omega-3 fish oil), which have multiple beneficial mechanisms not necessarily related to their effects on cholesterol; and drugs modulating the notorious renin-angiotensin system (RAS) in the body.

Good and bad of RAS

RAS is responsible for blood-pressure elevation, enlargement of the heart called hypertrophy, heart failure, irregular beating of the heart which may lead to sudden death, and a litany of other potentially life-threatening effects.

But RAS is not all that bad. RAS, with proper modulation, is essential for normal circulation and other important bodily functions.

Modern medicine has provided us two classes of drugs which can tame the system so it would behave properly.

One class consists of angiotensin receptor blockers like telmisartan (Micardis, Pritor), valsartan (Diovan), candesartan (Blopress) and irbesartan (Approvel). The other class is the angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor such as perindopril (Coversyl), ramipril (Tritace), quinapril (Accupril) and imidapril (Vascor).

Landmark study

This week, our esteemed colleague Dr. Rody Sy presented the results of a recently completed landmark trial showing that perindopril significantly reduces the risk of cardiovascular death and heart attacks in patients with stable coronary artery disease, which includes those with chest pains (angina pectoris) and/or a previous heart attack.

The large-scale trial is called the Europa study (EUropean trial on Reduction Of cardiac events with Perindopril in stable coronary Artery disease). Europa, involving 12,218 patients from 24 European countries, is the largest study on people with stable coronary disease. Patients were placed on perindopril or placebo once daily, in addition to optimal therapy, for an average of four years.

Perindopril reduced the combined primary parameter of cardiovascular death, heart attack and cardiac arrest by 20 percent. This was associated with an 11-percent reduction in total death. It also reduced heart attack (fatal or nonfatal) by 24 percent and heart failure by 39 percent.

The benefits were noted in all patient groups with or without hypertension and diabetes and irrespective of age.

Improving outcomes

Dr. Sy, who is the president of the Asian Pacific Society of Atherosclerosis and Valvular Diseases, explained that Europa is the first study to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of ACE inhibition among patients with stable coronary heart disease. The study involved heart patients commonly seen in clinical practice, optimally treated with other proven preventive therapy such as aspirin, statins and beta-blockers.

It's good to know that we can still improve the long-term outcome of these patients, who we previously thought were already adequately covered.

There is no doubt that data from the Europa study will have important implications in the way doctors manage coronary heart disease.

Coronary is the most common type of heart disease and, together with other cardiovascular problems, has been the leading cause of death in the Philippines since the last decade.

It doesn't look like its prevalence is going to go down soon, but hopefully with a healthy lifestyle and modern medicines, we can stem the tide of cardiovascular diseases.

Additional advantages

Although ACE inhibitors are used mainly for high blood pressure, the results of the Europa and other similar landmark trials prove that these drugs not only treat hypertension, an important cardiovascular risk factor, but also improve the outcome of patients with coronary heart disease, probably through mechanisms related to its modulation of the RAS.

We now have sufficient evidence to show that ACE inhibitors have additional advantages beyond their BP-lowering effects, and should be used to treat most patients with angina pectoris, history of heart attacks and other evidence of coronary disease, regardless of their blood pressure.

The results of Europa represent a milestone in cardiology, proving the life-saving benefits of an ACE inhibitor, perindopril, in this patient population.

The poor to get free medicines

STARTING this month, PHAPCares Foundation Inc. is donating P100-million worth of quality, essential medicines yearly to the Department of Health (DOH) for distribution to indigent patients, free of charge, in 72 hospitals nationwide. These medicines include antibiotics and vitamins.

The project is the response of both the government and the private sector to the growing need for essential and affordable quality medicines, said Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit.

Project partnership

Dayrit and PHAPCares Foundation president Edwin Feist recently signed a memorandum of agreement formalizing a project partnership dubbed "Medicines for Indigents" program.

"As promised by President Macapagal-Arroyo in her 2002 State of the Nation Address, this is another project that will provide the Filipino people with greater access to essential medicines," Dayrit also said.

For his part, Feist stressed "the Medicines for Indigents program will be a continuing commitment of the PHAPCares Foundation as an expression of the pharmaceutical sector's social responsibility."

Established early this year, the PHAPCares Foundation is supported by close to 60 pharmaceutical and healthcare companies belonging to the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines.

Outreach programs

Even before the establishment of the Foundation, PHAP has engaged in various outreach programs benefiting disadvantaged sectors of society.

PHAP provided financial support to doctors moving to rural areas where no medical facilities previously existed. It also supported the DOH "knock out polio" program and responded to appeals for medicines in times of calamities.

Natural substance optimizes energy of the heart

JERRY G., a businessman, was diagnosed with coronary heart disease presenting as angina pectoris two years ago. Angina pectoris is characterized by a tight and heavy pain in the chest region as a result of ischemia or oxygen deprivation in the heart.

To help him cope with the disease, his doctor prescribed L-carnitine along with his other medications.

Improved condition

After a year of taking his medications with L-carnitine, Jerry felt an improvement in his condition. He no longer feels pain in his chest area unlike before, as if his heart was given a fresh infusion of energy.

L-carnitine is a naturally occurring substance in our bodies synthesized by the liver and kidneys. It is most concentrated in the heart, adrenal glands and skeletal muscles.

According to medical experts, although our bodies can make a certain amount of L-carnitine on its own, certain conditions cause the demand for L-carnitine to exceed an individual's capacity to synthesize it, which makes it an essential nutrient.

Lowering health risks

Studies show that L-carnitine converts fats into energy. By helping burn fat, L-carnitine lowers the health risks caused by inefficient fat metabolism associated with unhealthy lifestyle practices and diseases such as diabetes. It has also been reported to lessen the risk of heart disorders by preventing the build-up of fat especially in the muscles, liver and the heart.

The heart relies on the breakdown of fats for energy, which makes heart muscles vulnerable to L-carnitine deficiency. Numerous studies show that taking L-carnitine may improve heart muscle function, enhance heart performance, and help prevent cardiovascular diseases.

Chance of survival

L-carnitine is also a necessary nutrient for people who have just suffered a heart attack. According to a study done by Davini et al., taking maximum dose of 4 grams of L-carnitine a day will influence a heart attack patient's chance of survival by limiting the damage extended to their heart. Therefore, death can be prevented and the need for medication can be reduced.

In another study conducted by Iliceto et al., published in the Journal of American College of Cardiology, results suggested that carnitine therapy may limit adverse effects of myocardial infarction (MI) or heart attack. The study, which involved a total of 472 patients treated within 24 hours of having their first MI, showed that the incidence of death and congestive heart failure after discharge was lower in the L-carnitine treatment group versus the placebo group.

US FDA approval

The United States Food and Drug Administration has approved L-carnitine as a therapy for low energy levels, congestive heart disease, and other diseases associated with low cellular energy levels.

In the Philippines, L-carnitine (Carnicor) is locally manufactured by Pascual Laboratories. For more information on the benefits of L-carnitine and how it can energize your heart, call the Carnicor hotline at 920-1911 local 146 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

Eye exams a must

REGULAR eye examinations are a must beginning middle age. This is because certain eye diseases such as age-related macular degeneration (AMD) develop later in life. AMD is a common cause of vision loss for those over 60.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology recommends the following general schedule for regular eye exams: for individuals aged 40 to 55 with no AMD symptoms, eye exams are recommended every two to four years. After age 55, eye exams should occur every one to two years, and even more frequently if recommended by a personal eye care specialist.

An eye doctor should be consulted immediately for any changes in vision. The earlier AMD is diagnosed, the better the chances of preventing vision loss.

An eye exam may include the following tests: the visual acuity test measures how well a person sees at various distances; pupil dilation to see more of the retina and look for signs of AMD; and the Amsler Grid, which is a pattern resembling a checkerboard.

Controlling risk factors also help in general eye health. Quit smoking. Manage high blood pressure. Protect your eyes from ultraviolet light by wearing brimmed hats and sunglasses. Eat a healthy diet rich in fruits and vegetables and low in saturated fat. Take multivitamins and mineral supplements with proven high levels of antioxidants and zinc.

Bausch & Lomb's Ocuvite is the only multivitamin formulated specifically to promote healthy eyes and combat the progress of AMD. It is recommended by eye care professionals in over 60 countries worldwide. It is available in all leading drug stores.

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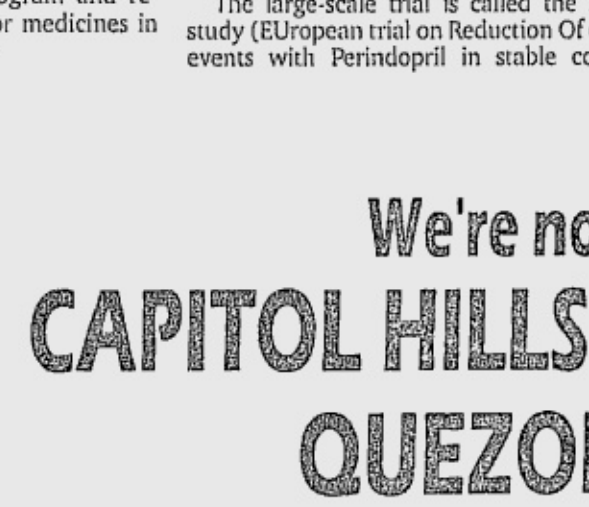

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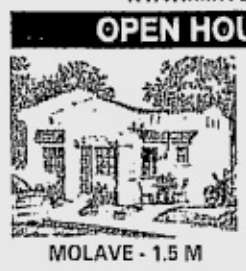

MOLAVE - 1.5 M

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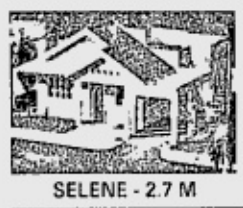

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO OPERATE PRIVATE EXPRESS AND/OR MESSENGERIAL DELIVERY SERVICE
PEMEDES CASE NO. 2003-15

SPRINT COURIER CORPORATION
Petitioner.

ORDER

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Sec. 26 Art V of R.A. 7354 SPRINT COURIER CORPORATION represented by Ms. Ma. Victoria O. Alvarez President with business address at Unit 102 4328 Gen. Tinio Street Bangkal Makati City Metro Manila had filed with this Office a verified petition for Authority to Operate Private Express and/or Messengerial Delivery Services within Metro-Manila

Finding the petition in due form and substance and after initial inspection of the business premises the initial public hearing of the said application shall be conducted on 17 October 2003 at 2:30 in the afternoon at the Office of the Chairman Postal Regulation Committee 16/F Rm 164 Columbia Tower Ortigas Avenue Mandaluyong City. All those who intend to oppose the verified petition shall file a verified opposition within this Office at least five (5) days before the scheduled hearing and serve a copy thereof to the petitioner.

Let this Order be published in a newspaper of general circulation once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks preceding the initial hearing at the expense of the petitioner.

Let the copy of this Order together with Petition and supporting documents thereto be served to the Private Express and Messengerial Association of the Philippines (PEMAP) and to the Assistant Postmaster General, PPC.

SO ORDERED
Mandaluyong City 17 September 2003

(Sgd.) ATTY. KENNETH U. BARREDO
Director III, Franchising Review Staff
Chairman, Postal Regulation Committee

Copy Furnished
(Sgd.) MS. MA. VICTORIA O. ALVAREZ
Unit 102 4328 Gen. Tinio Street Bangkal
Makati City Metro Manila

(Sgd.) ATTY. ANTONIO Z. DE GUZMAN
Assistant Postmaster General
Philippine Postal Corporation
Liwasang Bonifacio Manila

(Sgd.) MR. BUEN T. MARIANO
President, PEMAP
2178 Singalong St. Malate
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P185.50/m² Vic 8903461 loc. 27

FACTORY/WHSE

P4.5M nr NAIA 8274972

RESORT

Pansol Hot Spring priv 7767507

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

ORCHD B P160T 8278618

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

HOUSE

PASIG

3BR U/D W/ GRGE 2TB SCRND
13TH PARKWOOD 687-7335

Valle Verde 3 Subd
633-4545 • 0917-7907033

VV5 5br FF Garden 631-0541

QUEZON CITY

ACROPOLIS front park 4BR
P45T/month T6337601-03

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

Lorry tanker 32kl rush sale 0922836636

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

SALESMAN with Driver's License 4313975

FEMALE

Sales Promo GIRLS White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7248781 7272890

Urgently Needed
Cert Public Accountant with pleasing personality 25-30 yrs old. Apply at DKC Tire Center 287-A P. Tuazon Blvd Cubao QC

Wanted SECRETARY Female, at least 2nd yr college or fresh grad, computer literate, lives in pque or las pinas 0917-8114192 txt or call

MALE/FEMALE

FREE CAREGIVER TRAINING 589-9958 4043528 528-0730

★CANADA VISA★
IMMIGRANT STATUS
FREE ASSESSMENT, CONSULT & VIDEO SHOW 9364151 8175511 8944950

JOB HIRING 09193352395 KC

Marketing Company needs mature person to sell franchised chain throughout Philippines. Proficient in English with strong closing abilities. Salary of P25,000 with commissions. Fax resume to • Mr. John Paul 899-9799 •

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Knowledgeable in Designs & Merchandising & Promotional Display Modules / Store Designs. Part Timers Accepted
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Wanted Male/Female
SR & JR STYLISTS
MAKEUP ARTISTS
NAIL TECHNICIANS
Apply from 9am-5pm at Fanny Serrano Salon 69 Scout Rallos St., Tomas Morato QC 9257808/9276812

WASHINGTON TUTORIAL CENTER Now Hiring Teachers •829-0978•

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Real Estate Seminar Review for Brokers Exams CEP Oct. 11,18,25 Nov.8,15 045-8593 Highest Passing Rate 0919-8104290 0917-9127665

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late WILFRIDO C. SALVADOR was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc # 371 Page # 75 Book # 3 series of 2001 by Notary Public License Rhoderick De La Paz
PDI-Sept 27, Oct 4 & 11,2003

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Candlemaking 0917-4572623

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RETIRE 2YRS 09189051567

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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting *Offers to Purchase/Lease* on an *"As Is-Where Is"* basis, the following properties:

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE
I.	PUBLIC BIDDING - FIRST TENDER		
001	2 ha. institutional lot With TCT	Blk. 21, Kadayawan Homes, Davao City	PhP1,293.67 sq.m. or PhP25,873,400.00
II.	PUBLIC BIDDING - SECOND TENDER		
001	23,626 sq.m. commercial/industrial property	Within Pier 18 Area, Vitas, Tondo, Manila	PhP12,850/sq.m. or PhP303.59 Million (sale) Php37/sq.m./mo. (lease)
III.	NEGOTIATED SALE		
A.	METRO MANILA		
001	14,685 sq.m. commercial property With TCT	Vitas, Tondo along R10	PhP15,900/sq.m. or PhP220.27 Million (sale) PhP53.33/sq.m./mo. (lease)
002	6,375.30 sq.m. commercial property With TCT	East Triangle, EDSA, Quezon City	PhP40,500/sq.m. or PhP258.21 Million
003	5,105 sq.m. commercial property With TCT	Lapu-lapu Avenue corners Ayungin & Babanse Sts., Dagat-dagatan Project	PhP12,000/sq.m. PhP61.26 Million
004	863.57 sq.m. commercial property With TCT	Felix Avenue, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig	PhP13,750/sq.m. or PhP11.87 Million
B.	NORTHERN/CENTRAL LUZON		
001	10,995 sq.m. commercial property With TCT	San Jose Del Monte, Sapang Palay, Bulacan	PhP700/sq.m. or PhP7.70 Million
002-013	12 commercial lots, 240 sq.m. to 978 sq.m. With TCTs	Towerville Subdivision San Jose Del Monte City	PhP300/sq.m. to PhP3,250/sq.m
C.	VISAYAS		
001-005	5 commercial lots, 210 sq.m. each With TCTs	Kadungganan, Tacloban	PhP1,525/sq.m.
D.	MINDANAO		
001	11,570 sq.m commercial property	Macabalan Puntod Cagayan de Oro City	PhP6,500/sq.m. or PhP75.21 Million
IV.	DIRECT AWARD TO ACTUAL OCCUPANTS		
001-009	9 commercial lots, 90 to 134 sq.m With TCTs	Bagong Silang, Caloocan City	PhP2,420 to PhP2,835/sq.m.
010-015	6 institutional lots, 78.20 sq.m. to 120 sq.m.	Bagong Silang, Caloocan City	PhP1,650 to PhP2,200/sq.m.
016-145	130 commercial lots, 10 sq.m. to 834 sq.m With TCTs	Dagat-dagatan Project	PhP7,333.33 to PhP13,750/sq.m.
146-153	8 institutional lots, 50 sq.m. to 243 sq.m With TCTs	Towerville Subdivision San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	PhP1,690 to PhP2,500/sq.m
154-155	2 institutional lots with model units With TCTs	Towerville Subdivision San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan	PhP165,200 and PhP218,060
156-157	2 commercial properties 3,107 sq.m. & 16,600 sq.m. each	Vitas, Tondo	PhP15,000/sq.m.

Bidding Materials for Vitas property offered for second tender can be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP200.00 from the *Commercial/Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED)* Second Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City. Bidding Materials for Davao property can be secured from the NHA Davao Project Office. For further inquiry, please contact the following persons: *Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos or Ms Neri A. Subido* at the following Tel. Nos. of *CIED (02) 922-3002, (02) 928-4561 local 263 & 264.*

SCHEDULE FOR PUBLIC BIDDING	VITAS, TONDO	DAVAO
A. Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements	Oct. 13 to Oct. 21, '03 Office Hours, CIED-NHA Bldg Elliptical Road, Q.C	Oct. 20 to Nov. 5, '03 Office Hours, NHA Davao Project Office 127-D Everstrong Bldg. Monteverde St., Davao City
B. Pre-Bid Conference	Oct. 20, '03, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor NHA Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City	Nov. 5, '03, 10:00 a.m. NHA Davao Project Office
C. Submission of Sealed Bids	Oct. 23, '03, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Operations Center, 3rd Floor	Nov. 7, '03, 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. NHA Davao Project Office
D. Opening of Sealed Bids	Oct. 23, '03, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center, 3rd Floor	Nov. 7, '03, 10:15 a.m. to 12:00 noon NHA Davao Project Office

Applications for negotiated sale and direct award may be submitted at the respective NHA Project Offices during office hours starting 13 October 2003.

The Authority reserves the right to *reject* any or all offers or any part thereof or to *waive* any required formalities and *accept* offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH PETER S. SISON
Assistant General Manager

(PDI - Oct. 11 & 18, 2003)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

FRANCHISING

FOODCOURT CHAIN AVAILABLE: MEGAMALL, GALLERIA, SM MAKATI, SM CUBAO • 0916-6630023

BUSINESS FOR SALE

RESTAURANT FOR SALE ALONG M.H. DEL PILAR COR PADRE FAURA T4041909

CARS FOR SALE

1. Car : Nissan (Automatic)
   Make : Cefiro
   Model : 1997
   Color : Black
   Mileage : 25t km.
2. Car : Chevrolet (Automatic)
   Make : Silverado
   Model : 2000
   Color : Black
   Mileage : 17t km.
3. Car : Nissan (Automatic)
   Make : Sentra Series 3
   Model : 1995
   Color : Emerald Green
   Mileage : 61t km.

Contact Persons:
Mike — 0917-9076237
or Miguel — 0917-5366311

PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER
Department of Agriculture

Headquarters and Gen. Pop. ... Nueva Ecija Philippines 3120
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Tel 63 (44) 456-0731 to 34
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5/F DOEC Bldg. NIA Cmpd. EDSA
Quezon City Philippines 0850
Tel/Fax 63(2) 921 3863
63(2) 926 ....

October 2, 2003

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY FOR ACCREDITATION OF SUPPLIERS

The **Philippine Carabao Center (PCC)**, an attached agency of the Department of Agriculture and an ISO 9001:2000 accredited institution, is inviting all interested suppliers to apply for eligibility for accreditation.

The issuance of the requirements for prequalification for accreditation will be on **October 15 to 30, 2003.** Accredited suppliers will be informed in writing not later than **November 29, 2003.**

For further information, please call **Eduardo P. Dalusong** at telephone numbers **(044) 4560-731 to 34** or **Mr. Rogel M. dela Cuesta** at telephone numbers **(02) 921-3863.**

All particulars relative to the Eligibility for Accreditation shall be governed by Article XVI of Republic Act No. 9184 and Executive Order No. 40, Series of 2001 and its implementing regulations.

(Sgd.) LIBERTADO C. CRUZ
Executive Director

(PDI - Oct. 10 & 11, 2003)

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PUBLIC AUCTION

OCTOBER 23, 2003 • THURSDAY 2:00 pm

PENTHOUSE, B.A. LEPANTO BUILDING, PASEO DE ROXAS AVENUE, MAKATI CITY

CAVITE

Lot 1 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 111 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 2 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 45,475

Lot 2 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 100 sqm
Lot 3 Blk 5 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 42,950

Lot 3 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 181 sqm
Lot 6 Blk 6 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 61,540

Lot 4 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 100 sqm
Lot 8 Blk 7 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 40,250

Lot 5 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 154 sqm
Lot 11 Blk 12 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 55,343

Lot 6 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm
Lot 2844-A-2 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 88,850

Lot 7 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm
Lot 2844-A-3 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 88,850

Lot 8 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 348 sqm
Lot 2844-A-4 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 99,866

Lot 9 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm
Lot 2844-A-6 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 88,850

Lot 10 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 379 sqm
Lot 2844-A-2-7 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 106,981

Lot 11 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 379 sqm
Lot 2844-A-8 Bo. San Agustin, Trece Martirez City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 106,981

Lot 12 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1027 sqm
Lot 23 Gen. Trias-Amadeo Road, Buenavista, Gen. Trias
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 878,085

Lot 13 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 964 sqm
Lot 25 Gen. Trias-Amadeo Road, Buenavista, Gen. Trias
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 824,220

Lot 14 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1000 sqm
Lot 17 Blk 7 Rodeo Countryside Subd. Esperanza, Alfonso
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 840,000

Lot 15 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 1000 sqm
Lot 19 Blk 7 Rodeo Countryside Subd. Esperanza, Alfonso
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 840,000

Lot 16 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 438 sqm
Lot 72 Blk 11 Rodeo Hills, Alfonso
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 622,500

Lot 17 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 856 sqm
Lot 10 Blk 15 Cityview 1 Brgy. Kalinawan, Tanza
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 372,000

Lot 18 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 542 sqm
Lot 1-B Bisita St. Binakayan, Kawit
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 6,695,250

Lot 19 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 17 Blk 14 Road Lot 13 San Miguel Subd., Molino IV, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 421,600

Lot 20 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 249 sqm
Lot 21 Blk 30 Barcelona cor. Dela Cuesta T&C W, Molino, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 550,290

Lot 21 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 301 sqm
Lot 2 Marasagang I-D Imus
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 511,700

Lot 22 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 150 sqm
Lot 3 Blk 92 Metrogate Subd. Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 381,140

Lot 23 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 263 sqm Floor Area: 51 sqm
Lot 1 Blk 6 Firewood cor. Everlasting Sts., Sta. Cookia Subd., Mulawin, Tanza
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 772,314

Lot 24 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 128 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 5 Diamond cor. Pearl Ph3 Perpetual 7 Vil., Malumot, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 250,240

Lot 25 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 120 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 5 Diamond cor. Pearl Ph3 Perpetual 7 Vil., Malumot, Bacoor
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 214,200

Lot 26 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 900 sqm Floor Area: 150 sqm
Lot 1052-C-1 Bo. Timalan, Naic
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 810,000

LAGUNA

Lot 27 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 219 sqm
Lot 1 Blk 2 Holiday Park Subd. Brgy. San Antonio, San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 372,300

Lot 28 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 240 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 2 Holiday Park Subd. Brgy. San Antonio, San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 408,000

Lot 29 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 250 sqm
Lot 3 Blk 2 Holiday Park Subd. Brgy. San Antonio, San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 326,400

Lot 30 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 192 sqm
Lot 4 Blk 2 Holiday Park Subd. Brgy. San Antonio, San Pedro
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 326,400

Lot 31 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 135 sqm
Lot 18978 Brgy. Sta Maria Magdalena, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 367,200

Lot 32 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 175 sqm
Lot 3093-New-B-5 Ph II Springhomes Subd., Bucal
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 312,375

Lot 33 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 342 sqm
Lot 24 Blk 8 Pamana Letran Homes, Halang
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 384,750

Lot 34 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 486 sqm
Lot 9 Blk 7 Farmers Village, San Lucas I, San Pablo City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 464,738

Lot 35 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 92.5 sqm Floor Area: 56 sqm
Lot 16-B Block 19 Florida St. Southville Subd., Calaboso, Biñan
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 478,848

Lot 36 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 267.95 sqm Floor Area: 110 sqm
Lot 317-A 984 Vallejo St. Malusak, Sta Rosa
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 941,844

Lot 37 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240 sqm Floor Area: 69 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 7 Begonia St. Cens I Subd. Canlubang, Calamba
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 710,855

BATANGAS

Lot 38 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 462 sqm
Lot 5 Blk 2 Acola Homes Subd., Antipolo Del Norte, Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,478,000

Lot 39 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 165 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 4 Agasaka St. Sakura Executive Subd., Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 483,887

Lot 40 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 801 sqm
Int. B Morada Ave. Lipa City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 3,404,250

RIZAL

Lot 41 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 120 sqm
Lot 4 Blk 15 Monte Vista Hls Subd. Brgy Dolores, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 240,000

Lot 42 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 120 sqm
Lot 6 Blk 15 Monte Vista Hls Subd. Brgy Dolores, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 240,000

Lot 43 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 150 sqm
Lot 3 Blk 15 Monte Vista Hls Subd. Brgy Dolores, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 300,000

Lot 44 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 150 sqm
Lot 5 Blk 15 Monte Vista Hls Subd. Brgy Dolores, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 300,000

Lot 45 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 140 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 15 Monte Vista Hls Subd. Brgy Dolores, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 280,000

Lot 46 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 176 sqm
Lot 1 Blk 15 Monte Vista Hls Subd. Brgy Dolores, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 352,000

Lot 47 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 621 sqm
Lot 14, Ortigas Ave Ext., Exec Hills Subd. Brgy Dolores, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 678,400

Lot 48 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 236 sqm
Lot 11 Blk 18 Heron St. Grandvalley Subd., Angono
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 318,750

Lot 49 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 299 sqm
Lot 18 Blk 11 Victoria St., Vista Verde Ville Ph8, Mayamot, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 685,950

Lot 50 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 150 sqm
Lot 16-A Windy Lane cor. Shearwater Sts., Vista Verde Country Homes Ph4 Mayamot, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 273,600

Lot 53 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 272 sqm Floor Area: 130 sqm
1 Tanguile Mahogany St. Palmera Hls Subd., Ph2, Cainta
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 660,280

Lot 54 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 240 sqm Floor Area: 186 sqm
Lot 4 Blk 23, #346 Gardenia St. Greenhls Newton Subd., Brgy. Mayamot, Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 428,400

Lot 55 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 74 sqm Floor Area: 101 sqm
Lot 21 Blk 2 Homepoint Vill Subd. San Isidro, Angono
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 550,120

Lot 56 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 74 sqm Floor Area: 42 sqm
Lot 20 Blk 2 Homepoint Vill Subd. San Isidro, Angono
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 259,868

QUEZON CITY

Lot 57 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 150 sqm
Lot 28 Blk 6 Evergreen St. Greenview Royale P32, Sauyo, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 561,000

Lot 58 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 160 sqm Floor Area: 99 sqm
Lot 2 Blk 3 Ruby St. San Pedro 6, Tandang Sora
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,134,559

Lot 59 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 76.5 sqm Floor Area: 115 sqm
Lot 5 Blk 6 No. 35 Sto. Niño St. Villa Espana, Talalon
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,444,210

Lot 60 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 352 sqm Floor Area: 390 sqm
Lot 4 Blk 7 No. 19 Trinity St. Mares Vill. Tandang Sora
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 5,063,025

Lot 61 - CONDO
Floor Area: 80 sqm
Unit 201 2nd Flr. Union Square Cond. 15th Ave., Quezon City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,399,187.67

Lot 62 - CONDO
Floor Area: 72.75 sqm
Adelina II Condominium 4/F Unit 404 Columbia corner Imperial Street
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,237,000

Lot 63 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 181 sqm Floor Area: 76 sqm
39 San Ignacio Street Barangay Gulod Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 676,000

Lot 64 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 204 sqm
1020N4 Milestone Ave. Ext Compound Pasong Tamo
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 867,000

Lot 65 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 462 sqm
Sunnyside Subdivision, Lot 8 Blk 9, Old Balara, Capitol District
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,213,000

Lot 66 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 300 sqm
Geneva Gardens Neopolitan Homes Village, Lot 15 Block 203 Milflores Street Fairview
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,275,000

LAS PIÑAS

Lot 67 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 249 sqm Floor Area: 149 sqm
Moonwalk Subdivision, Lot 11 Block 7 Meteor Street
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,162,000

MAKATI

Lot 68 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 324 sqm Floor Area: 108 sqm
M. Dela Paz Subdivision, 1 Ponte Street Barangay Singkamas
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 5,103,000

Lot 69 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 347 sqm
2545 Anastacio Street corner La Consolacion Street, Guadalupe Nuevo
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 4,425,000

MARIKINA

Lot 71 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 420 sqm Floor Area: 206 sqm
Industrial Valley Subdivision, 54 Aguinaldo Street
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 3,653,000

MUNTINLUPA

Lot 72 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 180 sqm Floor Area: 330 sqm
R.M. Tiosejo Subdivision, Road Lot 3, Tunasan
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 2,383,000

Lot 73 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 359 sqm
South Greenheights Subdivision, Everlasting Circle, Putatan
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 763,000

PARAÑAQUE

Lot 74 - CONDO
Floor Area: 76.4 sqm
Isabelle Mansion, Penthouse E, L.P. Leviste Ave., Sun Valley, Brgy Merville
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,091,000

Lot 75 - CONDO
Floor Area: 76.4 sqm
Isabelle Mansion Penthouse G, L.P. Leviste Ave., Sun Valley, Brgy Merville
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,091,000

Lot 76 - CONDO
Floor Area: 48 sqm
Isabelle Mansion, Penthouse L, L.P. Leviste Ave., Sun Valley, Brgy Merville
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 686,000

Lot 77 - TOWNHOUSE
Lot Area: 78.75 sqm Floor Area: 62 sqm
Prince Court 1, Lot 4 Block 1, El Dorado Avenue, Better Living
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 537,000

Lot 78 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 397 sqm Floor Area: 156 sqm
B.F. Homes, Elizalde corner W. Vinzons Street
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 3,317,000

PASIG

Lot 79 - CONDO
Floor Area: 181 sqm
Manila Luxury Condominium, 11/F, Unit 1103 Pearl Drive corner Golden Loop Ortigas Center
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 5,202,000

Lot 80 - CONDO
Floor Area: 152.6 sqm
Crisanta Towers 5/F Unit 504 Captain Javier Street, Brgy. Oranbo
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 5,074,000

Lot 81 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 399 sqm Floor Area: 113 sqm
41 Gen. Delgado Street, San Antonio Village
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 9,862,000

BULACAN

Lot 82 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 200 sqm Floor Area: 747 sqm
Provincial Road, Sitio San Pedro, Purok 7, Area P, Sapang Palay, San Jose del Monte City
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 2,439,000

Lot 83 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 248 sqm Floor Area: 240 sqm
Aldo Heights Subdivision, 104 Cadena de Amor Street, Bulihan, Malolos
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 1,040,000

Lot 84 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 402 sqm Floor Area: 302 sqm
Barangay Canogan, Malolos
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 765,000

Lot 85 - LOT & IMPRVMNT
Lot Area: 181 sqm Floor Area: 150 sqm
Barangay Pulong Gubat, 230 Nolasco Street, Balagtas
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 664,000

Lot 86 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 233 sqm
Green Plains Subdivision, San Marcos, Calumpit
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 595,000

Lot 87 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 220 sqm
Green Plains Subdivision, San Marcos, Calumpit
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 561,000

Lot 88 - LOT ONLY
Lot Area: 200 sqm
Green Plains Subdivision, Lot 14 Block 8 Eucalyptus Street, San Marcos, Calumpit
Minimum Bid Price: PhP 510,000

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Himig ng Koro 2003 returns

FOLLOWING its smashing debut last year, ArianWorks Management Corporation brings back The Metro-Manila Chorale Competition, Himig ng Koro 2003. Now on it's 2nd Year, this festival of Choral Music promises to be bigger and better with huge cash prizes at stake. Himig ng Koro 2003 will be held on the 20th of December 2003 at the Teatro Aguinaldo (AFP Theater), Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City. For inquiries, please contact Ferdie Alina / Vonnel Mirandilla of AsianWorks at 721-3914 / 721-3918 or e-mail at arianworks@trilsys.com.ph

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003

OBITUARIES

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

ATTY. ELISEO "BENNY" V. VILLAMOR

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 9, 2003 at the age of 69.

His beloved wife **Medy** (†), **Butch**, **Yam** and **Mikee**; **Joey** and **Joan**; **Carrie** and **Yonkee**; **Bong** and **Punky**; **Rowena**; celebrate his new life.

His remains lie in state at the Mt.Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Thursday, October 14, 2003 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park Crematory, Sucat, Parañaque.

"...Ako ay lalakad sa harap mo, O Diyos na taglay ang liwanag na Ikaw ang nagdudulot."
Awit 56:13

Ang Aming Minamahal
"Doktor Juan"

Dr. Juan Jocson de la Cruz

UST MEDICINE CLASS OF 1955
OUTSTANDING CITIZEN OF MANDALUYONG, 1991

Siya ay maluwalhating tinawag ng ating Panginoon noong ika-5 ng Oktubre, 2003 sa edad na 76.

Ang kaniyang butihing asawa, **MONICA**, mga anak: **WILLIE** at **VICKY** (+); **NENETTE** at **RODEL VALERA**; **JOY** at **ALVIN CABALLES**; **ROGER** at **HENRI**; **JUN** at **ARLENE**; at **ABET** at **MARIEL**, mga apo, kapatid, kamag-anak at mga kaibigan ay hinihiling ang inyong mga panalangin para sa kaniyang walang hanggang kapayapaan sa piling ng ating Ama.

Ang kaniyang mga labi ay nasa Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave. Quezon City.

Siya ay ihahatid sa kaniyang huling hantungan sa Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City sa ika-12 ng Oktubre 2003 pagkatapos ng misa na gaganapin ng 8:30 n.u. sa Arlington Memorial Chapel..

"For God so loved the World, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have Everlasting life."
John 3:16

MAYOR MARIA MARTINEZ CALSADO

First Lady Mayor of Romblon Province 1980-1986
President – Catholic Women's League (Cajidiocan, Romblon) 1980-1990
President – Vicarial CWL (Sibuyan Island)
President – PTA, Cajidiocan National High School 1989-2000

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on October 3, 2003 at the age of 78.

She is survived by her children, **Tessie, Carmelo, Miriam, Ernesto, Jr. and Rafael**; children-in-law **Col (Ret) Douglas R. Tansiongco, Col Orlando M. Maddela, Jr., Asuncion Robles, Myra Burgos,** and **Aimee Escartin**; grandchildren **Charlie and Vanessa, Trixie and Meg, Mon and Anna, Owen and Bianca, Sophia and Joshua**; great grandchildren **Carlo Joseph**; sister **Patria M. Gotanco**, relatives and friends.

Her body lies in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapel, Quezon City and will be brought to Cajidiocan on October 11. Interment after necrological services will be announced later.

CONCEPCION LIM YAP, M.D., F.A.A.P

(December 9, 1925 - October 10, 2003)
of Calamba, Laguna

U.S.T. COLLEGE OF MEDICINE CLASS 1952
RETIRED PHYSICIAN - NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Peacefully joined our Lord on October 10, 2003

Her sisters and brothers **ANGELITA** (†), **ARSENIA** (†), **ANGEL** (†), **GLORIA**, **BONIFACIO** (†), **ANTONIO**; sisters-in-law **RUFINA MANACSA** (†), **LUCILA PADILLA**, **SOCORRO T. YU**; brothers-in-law **GODOFREDO SALGADO** (†) and **DALMACIO DE JESUS**, nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces and friends request your prayers for the eternal rest of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence in Calamba, Laguna.

Interment will be on Friday, October 17, 2003 at the Roman Catholic Cemetery, Calamba, Laguna after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

"My soul, be at rest in God alone from whom comes my hope." Psalm 62:6.

Our Dearly Beloved

SALUD DURAN CAMPOMANES

of Sauyan, Sauyan and Makati City

Peacefully joined our Creator on October 9, 2003 at the age of 94.

Her husband Salvador; brothers Dimaday (†), Cesar (†), Jaime (†), Roger; sisters Nita (†), Bebe, Sr. Guel, Minnay (†); in-laws, nephews, nieces, grandchildren, great grandchildren and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for her eternal rest.

Her remains lie in state at the Capilla de la Virgen, Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be at the Capilla de la Virgen at 6:00 p.m. Sunday.

Cremation will be on Monday, October 13, 2003 at 1:00 a.m. Her ashes will be interred at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

CEZAR S. PUZON

(Former Central Bank Officer)

Peacefully joined his Creator on October 7, 2003 at the age of 73.

His bereaved wife **Violie Nietes-Puzon**; daughter **Vicky** and son-in-law **Bob Deopenes**; granddaughter **Hannah**; brothers, sisters and their spouses **Eddie** (†) & **Mary** (†); **Jose & Gloria**; **Frankie** (†) & **Leoncia**; **Turing & Ruby**; **Maning** (†) & **Linda**; **Liling & Lito Lapus**; **Lydia & Nonoy Maghari**; nephews, nieces and other relatives request the reader for prayers.

His remains lie in state at the Presidential Suite, Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will take place on Sunday, October 12, at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina, after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at the memorial chapels.

In Loving Memory

on the **11th Death Anniversary** of

BENITO COO BU PENG

who joined his Creator on October 11, 1992.

His wife **Josefa**; children **Edgar** (†) and **Zeny**, **Emmeline**, **Evangeline** and **Arthur**, **Edwin** and **Anna**, **Eveline** and **Hero**; and grandchildren **Juliet**, **AJ**, **Janine**, **Richard**, **Philipp**, **Alexis**, **Voltaire**, **Job**, **Nicolle**, **Audrey**, **Erika**, **Hillary** and **Huxley** request relatives, friends and pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Our Dearly Beloved

ANGEL CRUZ MAGLALANG

October 1, 1922 - October 6, 2003

His loving wife Nena, children, grandchildren, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Edmonton Alberta, Canada and will be laid to rest at Our Lady of Peace Cemetery on Saturday, October 11 in Alberta, Canada.

Holy mass will be offered at Don Bosco Church, Makati City at 9:00 a.m. and Banal na Sacramento Church, Quezon City at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 12, 2003.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."
— Psalm 21:15

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Globe's 'Meteor' idol treat a huge hit

WHILE some fans go to great, exhausting lengths to catch even the most fleeting glimpse of their idols, others need only be a Globe Handyphone subscriber in order to see or even rub elbows with today's hottest young stars.

Globe recently gave away more than 1,500 guaranteed VIP seats to "The Event", the most awaited concert of Ken Zuo, Vaness Wu, Barbie Xiu and her sister, Hsu Hsi Ti - teen icons that have been catapulted to fame by the hit TV series Meteor Garden. A lucky handful even got to meet Barbie and her sister just before they went on-stage. All they had to do to win an exclusive backstage pass was to join the Gentxt raffle or download F4 ringtones and polytones from myGlobe.

To get coveted tickets to the event of the year, fans just had to switch to Globe's Hi-Memory SIM. Thousands of fans lined up at Globe Hubs and Business Centers to acquire the Globe Prepaid Hi-Memory SIM. When the hundreds of winners were announced two days before the concert, they couldn't believe their luck. The general sentiment that echoed was gratitude and appreciation for Globe's meteoric SIM switch treat. "We are so lucky we switched to Globe," a group said in unison.

Living up to its promise of access to fun and exciting events, Gentxt gave free admission to the first 300 Gentxters who lined up at the entrance gates. Not only that, Gentxt, Globe's mobile community for the young and hip, and industry pioneer in bringing the latest to the Filipino youth in music, sports, entertainment, and fashion, gave four Gentxters front row seats and the once-in-a-lifetime chance to get up close and personal with Barbie Xiu and her sister. Gentxters Lizette Garcia, Vanneza Ho, Catherine Tanpoco and Christine Pe had the biggest surprise of their lives when they were called by Globe the day before the concert to tell them they could bring along a special someone to share the thrilling experience with. "I could not believe it when Globe called to tell me I was going to meet Barbie and watch her perform - from the front row no less. We are so lucky." exclaimed Vanneza.

Fans who loved to download F4 news, ringtones, polytones or lyrics from myGlobe were also rewarded with a chance to meet Barbie in the flesh. F4 fans Dianne Ras, her older sister and co-F4 fan Doanne, Anna Elenita Sinora and her daughter Xyra could hardly contain their excitement when they were told of their good fortune. Not only did they get free guaranteed seats and an exclusive chance to meet Barbie and her sister, but they also had a pictorial with their idol to prove it.

Over the years, a lot of foreign artists have come to the country to meet their fans, but none of them were able to generate the feverish frenzy that welcomed the cast of the hit Chinovela. While millions of their Filipino fans gritted their teeth in envy, Globe made sure its subscribers had the time of their lives at "The Event."

"I think we are very fortunate that Globe gave us these guaranteed seats for free," exclaimed Catherine Galicha, who switched to Globe to join the promo. "Globe really knows how to treat its subscribers," she added.

"This event is just one way of giving special value to our subscribers and showing them our appreciation for their trust and confidence in Globe. For a lot of our subscribers, being here to see their idols perform live is a dream come true. We at Globe are only too happy to oblige them. After all, we are in the business of connecting people. To their friends, family, loved ones, idols, and yes - even their dreams," said Buda Concio, Globe AVP for prepaid marketing.

Globe has another treat in store for those who missed seeing their idols at "The Event." They can get a free signed F4 poster when they buy or switch to a Globe Prepaid X-treme Memory SIM or Hi-Memory SIM from Sept. 30 to Oct. 30. Also up for grabs for the download-crazy are prized F4 memorabilia such as autographed photos, a Meteor Rain VCD set, F4 umbrellas, Ken mugs, Vaness mugs, F4 pillows, Vanness CDs and F4 posters. You can earn raffle entries by downloading exclusive "The Event" colored wallpapers, F4 songs and lyrics, F4 myKaraoke, special edition F4 Java-zine or the Name that F4 Song Java game from myGlobe from Oct. 2 to Nov. 2. Get on Globe now and bask in this 'meteor' shower of giveaways.

LUCKY Gentxters (from left) Lizette Garcia, Vanneza Ho, Christine Pe and Christine Tanpoco prepare for their once-in-a-lifetime chance to meet their idols.

R U LUCKY like us? Vanneza Ho (right), her sister Sheree and pal Jerome flash their hot tickets to The Event -- their Gentxt card and their ticket to their VIP seats.

KEN ZUO thrilled Meteor Garden fans with an acoustic number.

GENTXTER Lizette Garcia (center) got the thrill of a lifetime when she met her idol Barbie (right) and her sister Dee.

GLOBE subscribers who got into The Event for free couldn't get enough of Vaness' moves.

Kitaro's Super Saver Siders

KITARO, the multi-awarded Japanese food chain, has added the Super Saver Siders to its menu to better serve its customers. The new side dishes are the Haru Maki (vegetable spring rolls), Taro Shitake (crunchy Japanese yam with mushroom) and Kani Maki (fried for crunchy twist). All these are available at affordable prices at the 16 branches of Kitaro in Metro Manila and Pampanga including the newly opened Hanston, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center and Riverbanks, Marikina outlets. For deliveries, call 912-1612.

Zonta holds DisCon

DISTRICT 17 of Zonta Int'l announces the holding of its 12th District Conference on Oct. 10 to 12 at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel, Mandaluyong City, Philippines. The DisCon is envisioned to bring together the officers and members of the Zonta Clubs from Hongkong, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines. For further details, members can write to the District 17 Conference Secretariat at the 15th floor, Physicians' Center, Victor Potenciano Medical Center, Edsa, Mandaluyong City, or call 531-4911.

Taal photo contest

THE HISTORIC town of Taal is the subject of an on-the-spot photo competition organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation (FPPF). The contest is open to non FPPF members. Today, some 100 photographers will roam the venue to capture the images of Taal. Kodak Phils is supporting the project together with town officials led by Taal Mayor Librado Cabrera and Fe Cabrera, and coordinated by Dindo Montenegro. For more details, call 813-7420 or 843-5341. The FPPF contest secretariat will be set up in Escuaela Pia/Taal Cultural Center near Taal Church and town plaza, Taal Batangas.

October to Remember

THE MONTH of October brings memorable performances in 'Concert at the Park' in celebration of the United Nations' month. Soprano Erica Nepomuceno gives us a wonderful musical experience on Oct. 12 in a program dubbed, "Music of the World." The Muntinlupa Dance Company under the direction of Dell Camins, will waltz down the park with the best of international dances. Capping the month's presentation on Oct. 26 are the members of Araullo University Dance Troupe under the direction of Maryo Eugenio. Admission is free of charge. Program starts at 5:00 p.m.

Clips

2nd Samsung Cyber Games

THOUSANDS of Filipino cyber athletes are sharpening their skills to earn a spot in the official Philippine team that will represent the country in the Samsung sponsored 2003 World Cyber Games to be held in Seoul, Korea on Oct. 12 to 18. About 21 million worth of prizes are at stake at the WCG 2003. Games in the PC category for the 2nd Samsung Philippines Cyber Games include Half-Life, Counterstrike, Starcraft:Brood Wars, and Warcraft III. The Philippines is sending a 5-man team for Counterstrike, and 2 each for Starcraft and Warcraft III. All 9 athletes will be recognized as official members of the Philippine "E-Sports" team by the PSC. Interested participants may register at www.samsungelectronics.ph. Registrants will be notified of their game schedule and venue.

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Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publications, if you are

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Helen Alejaga	Unknown	Roberto Alejaga SS # 03-4539813-4	June 21, 2003
2)	Maria D. Balasabas	Tarlac	Vicente L. Balasabas SS # 07-0498147-0	April 25, 2002
3)	Teofista Bargo	Known	Wilfredo Bargo SS # 07-0897796-9	July 5, 2001
4)	Dulce Beo	306 Palma St. Quiapo, Manila	Cipriano Beo SS # 03-0872699-2	August 31, 2003
5)	Rosemarie Fernandez Capada	Dasmariñas Cavite	Dionesio Capada, Jr. SS # 07-1308965-1	October 11, 2003
6)	Soledad	Unknown	Nicasio C. Cayton SS # 03-0196967-5	March 12, 2003
7)	Josefina S. Dalida	Brgy. Isidro, Bulosan Sorsogon	Alfredo Dalida SS # 03-1706879-0	October 22, 2002
8)	Violeta Cantong Lito Dineros	Baybay Sapa, Mayamot Antipolo City	Julie Dineros SS # 03-7260657-0	July 30, 2003
9)	Teresita Caleon	1954 Hon. V Liz Bangkal, Makati, Rizal	Nestor Dlones SS # 03-2403052-3	August 14, 2003
10)	Adelaida M. Escalana	Coloso St. Kabankalan City	Pedro Escalana SS # 07-0570744-6	October 5, 2002
11)	Clara Gaviola	Calapandayan, Subic Zambales	Norvin F. Felarca SS # 02-0368079-3	December 31, 2002
12)	Nena T. Francisco	Manila	Rodolfo Francisco SS # 03-3571468-9	May 10, 2003
13)	Emilia A.Guevarra	N[illegible] derosa Isabela Basilan Province	Reynaldo A. Guevarra SS # 10-0331786-7	June 1, 2003
14)	Flora D. Hoyumpa	[illegible]	Pedro G. Hoyumpa SS # 03-0166984-9	August 23, 2003
15)	Mary Grace Cabuyoc	Unknown	Alda Lamayen SS # 07-1182878-8	July 23, 2002
16)	Rosario Nepomuceno	Known	Armando M. Lorla SS # 03-1839197-7	January 26, 2003
17)	Editha Macalos	[illegible]ce of Cebu	Ernesto Macalos SS # 08-0456350-1	January 11, 2003
18)	Conchita D. Manang	[illegible]ement Tagug, Metro Manila	Eulito Manang SS # 03-686292[illegible]	May 16, 2003
19)	Helen Valencia	Unknown	Francisco M. Mempin SS # 03-5788090-2	January 24, 2001
20)	Leonida Riel	[illegible] Riz[illegible]	Marcelino Montealegre SS # 03-0540167-[illegible]	August 20, 2003
21)	Emy Pareja	[illegible]chan Camalig, Meycauayan Bulacan	Mario L. Padrones SS # 02-0996900-7	December 9, 2002
22)	Evelyn and Anita Priel	Unknown	Dante Priel SS # 03-5804292-7	July 13, 2003
23)	Carmen/ Carmencita Kee	[illegible]ngoog City	Godofredo Quicoy SS # 08-0286098-[illegible]	July 19, 2003
24)	Letecia Sacay	Bayabas, Cagayan De Oro City	Teodoro Sacay SS # 08-0523575-3	December 30, 2002
25)	Noel Saniban & Armando Saniban	Unknown	Bienvenido Saniban SS # 07-0530684-7	June 7, 1996
26)	Zosima Lagarto	[illegible] Magsaysay Blvd. Tacloban City	Cirilo Tampil SS # 05-0148019-[illegible]	August 29, 2003
	Luzviminda Tuazon	Unknown	Virgilio Tuazon SS # 03-1907207-[illegible]	March 22, 2003
28)	Lily Chan Francisco Tutor	Tagnanan, Mabini Davao	Francisco Tutor SS # 09-0255849-[illegible]	June 22, 2003
29)	Maxima C. Manzano -Valenzuela	A. Bonifacio, Sur Llanera, Nueva Ecija	Cerilo M. Valenzuela SS # 01-0687154-4	July 6, 2003
30)	Gundalina Tallado	Unknown	Bonifacio Z. Villarin SS # 03-3331585-7	April 5, 1997

(PDI - Oct. 11, 2003)

DepED
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TASK FORCE ENGINEERING, ASSESSMENT & MONITORING
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue
Pasig City, Philippines

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

IFB Number: 2002-03-SEMP-DepED-BEFP-02 — October 5, 2003
Project Title: CY 2002 Social Expenditure Management Project 2 (SEMP 2) — Loan No. 7118PH
10% Unallocated Portion
Contract Title: Construction of School Buildings for Public Elementary & High Schools in NCR, Regions II & V

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for the Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) to provide a budget support facility towards the financing of the Social Expenditure Management Project 2 (SEMP 2) in various currencies. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this facility will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the Basic Education Facilities Program (BEFP) to be implemented by the Department of Education (DepED).

2. The Department of Education (DepED) through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) of DepED Central Office, DepED Complex, Pasig City now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the bidding of the construction of school buildings located in the NCR, Regions II and V (separate packages).

	School	Scope of Works
a	Payatas B Annex Elem. School, D.C./NCR	Construction of 2 Storey, 4 Classroom School Building
b	Isabela Natl. High School, Ilagan, Isabela/Reg II	Construction of 1 Storey, 10 Classroom School Building
c	Daraga High School, Daraga, Albay/Reg V	Construction of 2 Storey, 6 Classroom School Building

3. For purposes of this bid, eligible bidders must have experience in works of a similar nature and complexity over the last five years.

4. Interested eligible bidders may acquire a complete set of bid documents starting October 6, 2003 upon submission of a letter of intent to the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) at DepED Central Office, DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City Tel. No. 636-6543 for Payatas B Annex ES, the DepED Regional offices for Isabela NHS and Daraga HS. A complete set of bid documents will be available for a non-refundable fee of Php2,500.00.

5. The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of the Contract are provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents, Procurement of Works.

6. Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by security of three (3%) percent of total bid price in the form of a bank guarantee, cashier's/manager's check or an irrevocable letter of credit.

7. Pre-Bid Conference and Bid Opening dates are as follows:

	School	Venue	Pre Bid Conference	Bid Opening
a	Payatas B Annex ES	DepED Central Office	October 20, 2003, 2:00 PM	November 7, 2003, 10:00 AM
b	Isabela Natl. High School	DepEd Regional Office, Reg II	October 22, 2003, 2:00 PM	November 11, 2003, 10:00 AM
c	Daraga High School	DepEd Regional Office, Reg V	October 29, 2003, 2:00 PM	November 18, 2003, 2:00 PM

8. The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, or to annul the bidding process or reject all bids and any time prior to contract award without incurring any liability to Bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and Chair, Bids and Awards Committee
DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City

(PDI-Oct 4 & 11 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources
860 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City,
Metro Manila 1103
Tel. Nos. 372-5057 * 372-5042
Fax Nos. 372-5048 * 372-5061

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources/FRMP, Department of Agriculture (DA-BFAR), invites qualified bidders/suppliers to participate in the bidding of the following items:

ITEM/S TO BID:

3	units	Photocopy Machine
4,500	cps	Brochure"

Bid form together with complete specifications may be obtained from Property Section.

Pre-bid Conference for the Brochure will be on **October 17, 2003**, 2:00 p.m., FRMP Conference Room 2nd Flr. Estuar Bldg., 880 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Sealed bids will be received and open at the BFAR, Conference Room, Quezon City, not later than 2:00 p.m. on **October 30, 2003.**

Interested bidder are required to submit the following requirements upon securing bidding forms: Photo copies of Business License, Certification Registration/DTI, latest audited Financial Statement, latest Income Tax Return (Original copies to be shown for authentication purposes).

This Office reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any required formality and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal as evaluated by the PBAC is the most advantageous to the government. The PBAC assumes no obligation to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids, or does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MALCOLM I. SARMIENTO, JR.
Director

(PDI - Oct 11 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
PPL Bldg., U.N. Ave., Manila

CASE NO. 2003-121
M/Tkr. "GENERAL ANTONIO LUNA"

Petition for exemption from securing Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) for motor tanker named M/Tkr. "General Antonio Luna" for company use only and pursuant to Section 14(e) of the Public Service Act (Commonwealth Act No. 146, as amended), exempting public service owned or operated by any instrumentality of the National Government or by any government owned controlled corporation from securing Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC).

PNOC SHIPPING & TRANSPORT CORP.
Petitioner.
x - - x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Petition for exemption from securing Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) for motor tanked named M/Tkr. "General Antonio Luna" for company use only and pursuant to Section 14(e) of the Public Service Act (Commonwealth Act No. 146, as amended), exempting public service owned or operated by any instrumentality of the National Government or by any government owned controlled corporation from securing Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC).

This application will be heard by this Authority on 21 October 2003 at 2:30 p.m. at the Hearing Room, Franchising Office, 6/F PPL Bldg., United Nations Ave., Manila, at which hearing, Applicant shall be allowed to present its documentary evidence, after proof of compliance with the requirement of publication has been complied with.

Parties opposed to this application must file their opposition in writing with this Office, within five (5) days from publication of the Notice of Hearing, likewise supported by documentary evidence, furnishing a copy thereof to the applicant.

Before the start of the hearing proper, the parties will be called to a pre-hearing conference or thereafter for the purposes stated in Sec. 1 Rule 6 of MARINA Memorandum Circular No. 74-A, effective 07 September 1995. Parties who fail to appear at a Pre-trial Conference when directed to do so, may be declared non-suited by dismissing the application, in the case of the applicant or as in default, in case of the oppositor. Despite the filing of the opposition, and despite presence of their counsels unless the latter is armed with special power of attorney to stipulate in the Pre-trial conference.

The applicant shall cause the publication of this Notice of Hearing one in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines at least ten (10) days prior to the date of hearing. Proof of compliance of publication Notice of Hearing is pre-requisite to the pre-hearing conference.

WITNESS, the Honorable Administrator, ATTY. OSCAR M. SEVILLA, this 29th day of October 2003 at Manila, Philippines.

(Sgd.) ATTY. GLORIA J. VICTORIA-BAÑAS
CESO V-Director II
Franchising Office

(PDI - Oct. 11, 2003)

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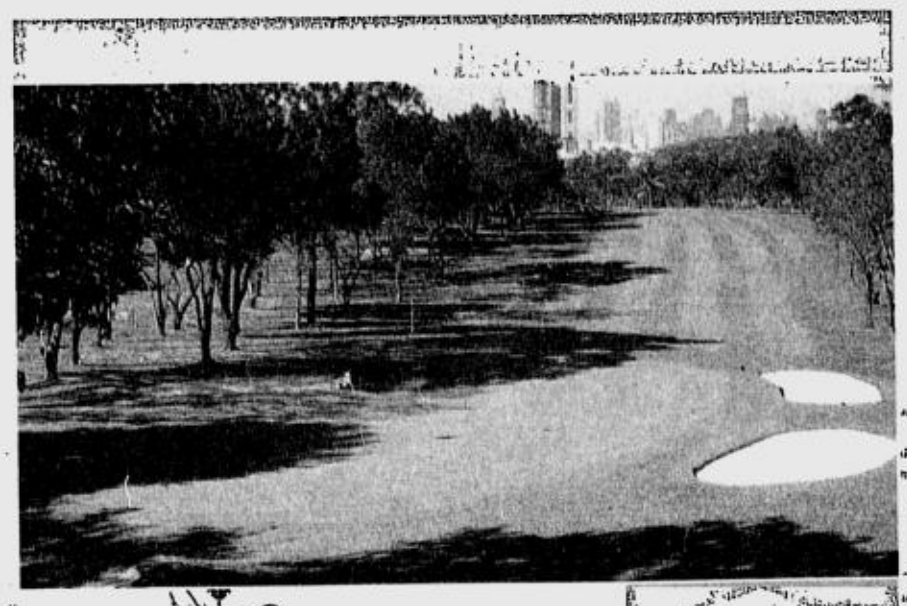

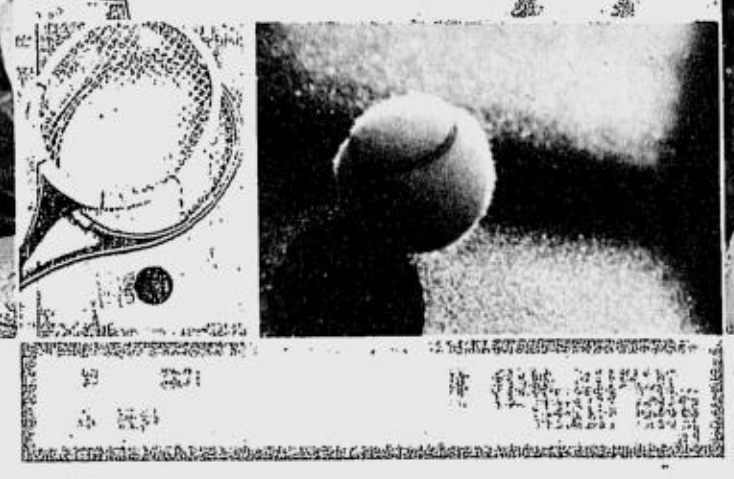

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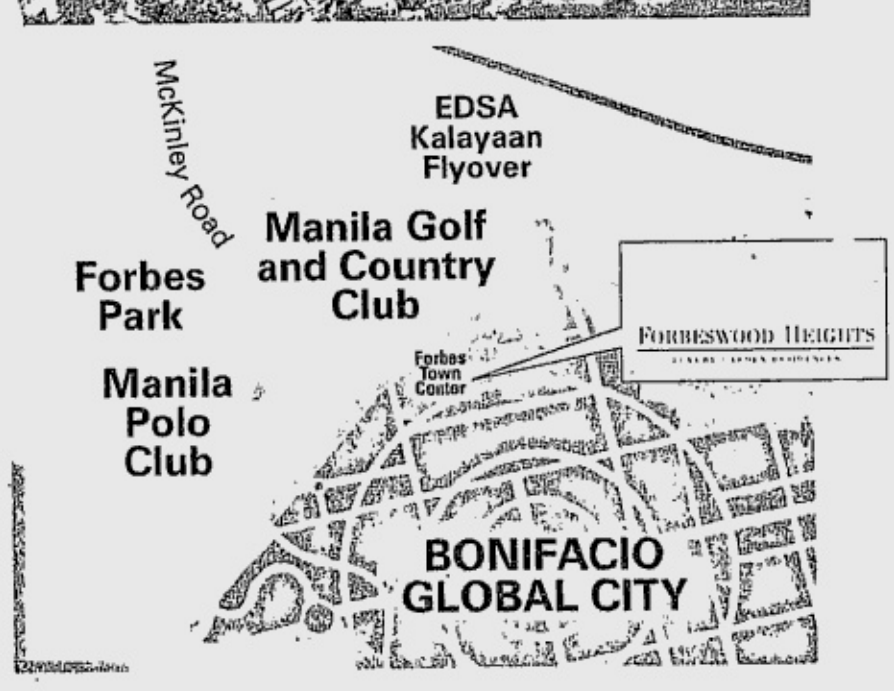

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SATURDAY Special

Editor Nestor U. Torre

'School of Rock' tops US box office

BLACK (center) plays a crazed substitute teacher in the family comedy. AP

LOS ANGELES—"The School of Rock," a family comedy in which a crazed substitute teacher turns his preteen charges onto Led Zeppelin and AC/DC, earned the top grade at the North American weekend box office, according to studio estimates issued on Sunday.

Higher end

The Paramount Pictures release, which stars Jack Black, sold about $20.2 million worth of tickets in its first three days since Oct. 2, opening at the higher end of the studio's expectations.

It was followed by another new release, "Out of Time," a thriller starring Denzel Washington, which opened with $17 million. Last weekend's champion, "The Rundown," starring former wrestler Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, slipped to No. 3 with $9.8 million in its second round.

Elsewhere in the the top 10, writer/director Sofia Coppola's acclaimed comedy, "Lost in Translation," starring Bill Murray, jumped three places to No. 7 with $4.3 million after boosting its theater count.

Overall take

However, the overall take was down sharply from last year. The top 12 films grossed $82.2 million, down 19 percent from the year-ago period when "Red Dragon" opened at No. 1 with $34.5 million.

While many music-based films, such as "Almost Famous" and "Rock Star," never connected with the masses, Paramount undertook a "delicate" task by marketing "The School of Rock" across the board, said Wayne Lewellen, president of distribution at the Viacom-owned studio.

Youngsters would be drawn to the ensemble cast of tykes and older hipsters to the classic rock.

Exit data appeared to show the effort was a success. The audience was split evenly between males and females, he said. The film was also helped by favorable reviews and strong word-of-mouth after some sneak previews.

Richard Linklater ("Dazed and Confused") directed "The School of Rock," which cost in the $30 million range. It co-stars Mike White, the film's writer, Joan Cusack and Sarah Silverman.

The $17-million bow for "Out of Time," in which Washington plays a police chief caught up in a double homicide, fell within expectations, said Erik Lomis, president of distribution at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Inc., which released the film.

Exposure

It cost about $50 million, but MGM's exposure is about $30 million since it pre-sold some foreign rights.

The audience was 56 percent female, while 58 percent was aged over 30, he said. The film was directed by Carl Franklin, who previously worked with Washington in the 1995 film noir, "Devil in a Blue Dress."

"The Rundown," an action movie released by Universal Pictures, has earned $32.7 million after 10 days. The studio expects it to finish with about $60 million—far below the $90 million haul of Johnson's last effort, last summer's "The Scorpion King."

Rounding out the top five, "Under the Tuscan Sun," fell one spot to No. 4 with $7.9 million, its 10-day total rose to $21 million. The romance, which stars Diane Lane, was released by Touchstone Pictures, a unit of Walt Disney.

"Secondhand Lions," a period comedy-drama starring Michael Caine, Robert Duvall and Haley Joel Osment, slipped one place to No. 5 with $5.4 million in its third weekend; its total rose to $30.8 million. The film was released by New Line Cinema.

"Lost in Translation" has earned $14.2 million after four weekends. After adding 376 theaters, it is playing in 864 outlets. By contrast, "The School of Rock" is in 2,614 theaters and "Out of Time" in 3,076 theaters. *Reuters*

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Japanese expert shares insights on Asian films

SATO. Unbeatable combination of acumen, experience and enthusiasm.

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST Sept. 29 and 30, we spent a total of 14 hours with the esteemed Japanese film critic, teacher and festival director, Tadao Sato.

Monday night, the Film Development Council of the Philippines hosted a small dinner for Mr. Sato, who encouraged the FDCPI officials, headed by Laurice Guillen-Feleo, in their endeavor to help both the Filipino movie industry and its audience develop themselves to their full potential.

Lecture

The following day at 3 p.m., we attended Mr. Sato's lecture on Asian films at the CCP's Dream Theater, and at 6 p.m., we were at Marilou Diaz-Abaya's home for the small dinner-concert that she tendered for the revered Japanese *sensei*.

Mr. Sato and Marilou go back many years, and he's had a major influence in her development as a film artist. In fact, she's one of his "children" in the Asian film world, whom he both nurtures and challenges to come up with their best works, which he then showcases in his Focus on Asia—Fukuoka Film Festival, and other venues.

Analytical pieces

We cleared our schedule to attend the events involving Mr. Sato because we have read his analytical pieces and know that he has a lot of film knowledge to impart.

In addition, we admire him for "discovering" the films of then-overlooked countries like Iran, Vietnam and Mongolia, and bringing them to the attention of the global community of film artists, festival organizers and movie buffs.

We hope that Mr. Sato will similarly continue to support and champion the best works of the Filipino film industry, so that we can catch up with our Asian neighbors who have already started to set the film world on fire with their unique productions.

Mr. Sato clearly aims to do just that. During his brief stay here; when he wasn't sharing his views with film practitioners and students alike, he was viewing tapes of relatively new and outstanding local film productions collated by the FDCPI.

It is hoped that some of those productions will be selected for screening in next September's Fukuoka festival of Asian films.

During our two days with him, we were amazed at how well the already elderly *sensei* (revered teacher) was able to keep up with the rigorous schedule of activities planned for him by the Japan Foundation, which sponsored his visit to the Philippines.

We ourselves ended up feeling quite pooped by 11 p.m. last Sept. 30, but Mr. Sato looked like he could have gone on for another three hours more.

Invigorated

It must be his abiding love for good films that keeps him so focused, committed and fit. He also shared that he feels invigorated when he interacts with young film talents, which he had a chance to do at his CCP lecture, and the following day with Marilou's film students, who had a long Q and A session with him at the Diaz-Abaya residence.

Mr. Sato's CCP lecture was well-attended, which indicates a strong interest locally in Asian films in general, and in Japanese movies in particular.

As one of the top experts on both topics, Mr. Sato was of invaluable help to local film buffs in search of insights on movies made in this part of the world. With his unbeatable combination of acumen, experience and enthusiasm, he was precisely the right man for the job.

Willie Revillame feels it's his destiny to host 'Willingly Yours'

By Jocelyn Valle

WILLIE Revillame has a morning ritual: At nine o'clock, he turns on the TV to watch "Oprah" on Star World. "She's very inspiring," he beams, awed by how the program's host and producer, Oprah Winfrey, is able to help a lot of people. "Yes, she gets sponsors, *pero minsan tinatapatan n'ya 'yung* donation."

REVILLAME. A new lease of life on TV.

Media personality

Just like the African-American media personality who's touted to be one of the wealthiest and most influential people in the world, the Filipino comedian and TV host readily shares his blessings.

"I feel happy when I'm able to give," he shares.

That's why he feels it's his destiny to be in a show like "Willingly Yours" that aims to fulfill the wishes of the needy. He remembers that on the day he appeared as guest on the pilot telecast of "Morning Girls," after being suspended from co-hosting "MTB" last year, he went to Rockwell for a haircut.

Anchor

There, he bumped into one of the bosses of Channel 2's News and Public Affairs department, Arlene de Castro, who was looking for somebody to anchor a new public service show (it had a different title then).

"Bigay talaga ng Diyos," he says of his inclusion in "Willingly Yours," adding that ABS-CBN president Freddie M. Garcia and comedy king Dolphy played a big part in his new lease of life on TV.

It's been a year since "Willingly Yours" debuted on the tube.

Hard work

Willie stresses, though, that producing the Saturday afternoon program is hard work. It takes four days to tape a single episode. *"Mahirap ang biyahe* to get to where these people live. That's why a lot of credit goes to our staff. *Sila talaga ang nagpapakahirap dito."*

Nope, he doesn't have plans of extending his public service to public office. His contract, he reveals, stipulates that he can't get involved in politics. "I just want to be like *Mang* Dolphy," Willy stresses, referring to his idol's willingness to help people while refusing invitations to seek an electoral post.

Good health in the work place

(Conclusion)

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

"THERE's no better time than now to attend one of Pfizer's Workplace Wellness Seminars" says Kimmy Coseteng.

"A lot of those who attend are into smoking and drinking, two factors which contribute to high blood pressure and cholesterol. High cholesterol comes from not watching what you eat," she adds.

Stress

Given the amount of stress experienced on a daily basis, the team looks for ways to address the issue. Through a partnership with the Philippine Psychiatric Association, Pfizer recently hosted a Stress Debriefing Workshop for media practitioners.

"They're the ones in the frontline of coups, crimes and other potentially traumatic events," notes Coseteng. "We're trying to de-stigmatize the negative stereotype of seeking help for your psychological well-being. Mental health affects your productivity."

While men are reportedly less inclined to ask for medical advice compared to women, they will certainly open up when the opportunity arises. The most frequently addressed issue in a male-dominated open forum? Sexual health, says the corporate affairs manager—specifically erectile dysfunction, a condition that is as physiological as it is psychological.

Latest rollback

Meanwhile, Health Secretary Manuel M. Dayrit cited Merck, Sharp and Dohme (MSD) for the latest price rollback of its prescription drug, Simvastatin.

"Our goal in the National Healthy Lifestyle Program is to reduce morbidity, disability and premature deaths due to lifestyle-related diseases," said Dayrit.

The rollback translates to savings of at least 37 percent and, at most, 57 percent—making it more affordable and accessible to the public.

* * *

Mandy Navasero does product and people photography for advertisers, manufacturers and exporters. Call 522-1905 or 0916 706-0130.

SECRETARY Dayrit (second from left) is flanked by Dr. Yolanda Oliveros (left), Michael Harris and Christine Liwanag.

Najah is Alpha's bet for pop stardom

By Andy P. Bais

UPCOMING pop and R&B artist Najah is a welcome addition to the world of recording. Her debut album, "Painting," dares to be different by not going the usual diva route.

12 tracks

Najah doesn't resort to vocal calisthenics to get listeners' attention. The 12 tracks in her album, including two remix versions, are ear-friendly for a change.

The petite and dusky charmer was destined to be a singer. At age two, she amazed her sister by singing a nursery rhyme that she had mastered in school. So, the family wasn't surprised when she started winning singing contests. *"Ang dami kong* trophies *na naipon,"* Najah smiles.

To hone her performing skills, Najah joined 14-K when she was nine years old, with Jolina Magdangal for her batchmate. She also attended theater workshops conducted by Repertory Philippines and the New Voice Company.

NAJAH. Petite and dusky charmer.

All-girl group

Then, she joined the all-girl group, Vibe. But after recording one album, the group disbanded.

The group's demise was a heartbreaker for Najah. But she joined other bands, much to her father's consternation.

"Gusto ko talagang kumanta. Pinapatulan ko maski P500 *lang ang* talent fee. Naturally, *ayaw ng* dad *ko dahil inaabot kami ng umaga. Sa bahay na lang daw ako, at siya na lang ang magbibigay sa akin ng* P500," she wryly recalls.

But she did not allow her love for performing to affect her studies. She's finishing her course in arts management at De La Salle, College of St. Benilde.

The twentysomething singer says that she's at home with all kinds of music.

Her album producer, Jimmy Antiporda, has so much faith in Najah's talent that he even composed six songs for her album. Four were penned by her brother, Nelson Capulso, who is also a good singer. The album includes cover versions of New Edition's "With You All the Way" and "Overjoyed" by Stevie Wonder.

The album's carrier single, "No Love and Desire," is a pop ballad and is currently getting a lot of radio airplay.

Parameters listed to curb abuses in impersonation

By Nestor U. Torre

COMEDIANS who impersonate famous people have a complex relationship with the celebrities they spoof. At its most basic level, it's just work: the celebrity is a character the comic assumes or exaggerates to entertain his audience. *Trabaho lang,* as the currently popular disclaimer goes, *walang personalan.*

Fanciful notion

But that notion is fanciful at best. Because what distinguishes a real person from, say, Hamlet as a character for the actor to portray is his actuality. And that can't be anything *but* personal.

Take President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the "impersonatee" of choice of a number of comedians these days. What makes her such a popular choice? Her lofty position, her power, her unique physical features, her distinct tics and mannerisms, and the many varied and important issues she's involved in, both in her public and private lives.

The fact that Gloria is president is of course a key factor. How many comics spoofed her when she was a senator? We rest our case.

In the Philippine context, however, Gloria's being president is a double-edged sword for the comics who audaciously decide to spoof her.

On one hand, her importance assures her impersonators of the audience's interest and attention. On the other, it also inhibits them from going to town with her character.

This is because people here distinguish between the position and the person occupying it. In other words, you can spoof the person all you want, but be sure to respect the position.

Little regard

Things are different in the west. In the United States and England, for instance, personages are ridiculed with little regard for their position.

US presidents like Nixon, Clinton and now George W. Bush have been savaged "to death," and with impunity.

In England, just about the only exception to the "everybody's fair game" rule is Queen Elizabeth II.

Why the comic carnage? The reasons are instructive: While

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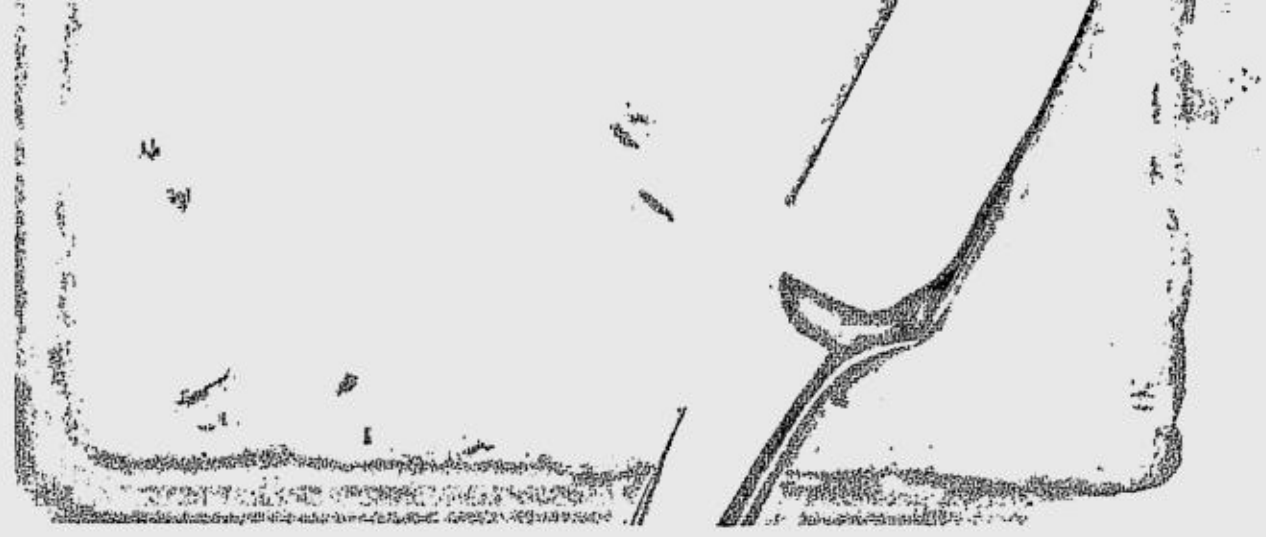

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'Understanding' Hitler

ONE of the most provocative TV mini-series of the year is "Hitler: The Rise of Evil," which will be shown on the Cinemax channel at 9 p.m. on Nov. 9.

Hitler has been dubbed a modern monster, so many people have consigned him to the dustbin of history. But there are lessons to be learned from knowing more about this instigator of atrocities during World War II, precisely so that history won't have to repeat itself before we understand its roots and ramifications. So, Hitler's formative years bear recalling and dramatizing.

The complex title role was assigned to Robert Carlyle, who shares, "It's dauntingly difficult, but it's also a challenge. We're dealing with a period, the years leading up to World War II, that's less well-documented, so that added to the difficulty.

"But I agreed to play him because this is a story that has to be told. And viewers will discover new aspects that will help them make informed judgments. It happened to me. All along, I thought I knew him, but it turned out I didn't."

As the story unfolds, the young Hitler gets involved with a number of people who also figure in the miniseries, their differing points of view adding to viewers' perception of the show's title character.

Julianna Margulies and Liev Schreiber play an aristocratic couple who interact with Hitler in contrasting ways: She saved his life, while he used his connections with German industrialists and members of the aristocracy to help Hitler establish the financial base on which he built his Third Reich.

CARLYLE. Plays Hitler on the Cinemax miniseries.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

Matthew Modine is cast as the drama's one dissenting voice, a newspaper reporter who, almost from the beginning, saw through Hitler's intentions.

These characters enable viewers to understand how the atrocity of the Holocaust could have taken place. Thus, "Hitler: The Rise of Evil," is an important piece of history revealed.

Movies on TV

On HBO: Oct. 11 at 9 p.m., "A Beautiful Mind." Oct. 12 at 12 noon, "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone." Oct. 13 at 2 p.m., "Sister Mary Explains It All." 11 p.m., "Shrek." 2:15 a.m., "Somewhere in Time." Oct. 14 at 10 p.m., "Sex and the City."

Oct. 15 at 11 a.m., "Murder She Wrote: The Celtic Riddle." Oct. 16 at 1:15 p.m., "Evolution." 2 a.m., "The Phantom of the Opera." Oct. 17 at 7:30 p.m., "Showtime."

On the Cinemax channel: Oct. 11 at 9:45 a.m., "Gia." Oct. 12 at 6 a.m., "Lawrence of Arabia." 5:15 p.m., "Life Without Dick." 12 midnight, "3000 Miles to Graceland." Oct. 13 at 2 p.m., "The Enemy Within." Oct. 14 at 9 a.m., "Cinema Secrets: Destructive Forces."

Oct. 15 at 11:45 a.m., "Cape Fear." 7:15 p.m., "The People Across the Lake." Oct. 16 at 4:15 p.m., "The War of the Worlds." Oct. 17 at 6:30 p.m., "Cinema Secrets: Oscar-winning FX."

Lani goes acoustic

Slowly but surely, Lani Misalucha has inched her way up the ladder of musical stardom, with her prodigious singing voice, exotic looks and straightforward performing style as her prime assets.

In the process, she has demolished some of the local entertainment field's notions about divas.

MISALUCHA. Demolished notions about divas.

Lani is so musically gifted that her fans don't care that she isn't single and that she doesn't have an "exciting," "glamorous" lifestyle. When Lani starts singing, all rules become moot and academic, and only the artistry and high entertainment value of her performance remain. To her loyal followers, that's more than enough.

Tonight at 9 p.m., Lani returns to Onstage Greenbelt with "Loving You," a refreshingly different and bracing acoustic show that especially suits her straightforward performing style. The Maxi-Media production, in association with Primeline, is presented by Dove Cream Bar. Musical direction is by Gerard Salonga. Call 897-6170 or 551-8999.

Now that she's become a bankable musical star, we hope that Lani can perform in an original musical play in Filipino next year. A period piece would make best use of her impressive vocal range and *kayumanggi* good looks.

Pop musical stardom is great, but there's nothing like performing in a hit musical play to firm up a talent's artistic reputation.

Other divas have productively gone this route—Kuh Ledesma in "Kapinangan," Zsa Zsa Padilla in "Larawan, The Musical," etc. And Nora Aunor will be singing and acting in the musical-theater version of "Himala" at the CCP next year.

Sergio Mendes weaves an enchanting musical tapestry

By Ronald G. Mangubat

I GREW up listening to Sergio Mendes' music. I sang and hummed his songs like a mantra, and read up on everything I could get my hands on about him.

Past performances

By the time I was in college, Sergio Mendes had already performed in Manila a number of times, but for one reason or another, I was unable to catch his shows.

So you could imagine how excited I was when I found out that Sergio Mendes and Brazil 2003 were coming to Manila for a two-night concert at the Aliw Theater. Has his music changed through the years? At 63, could he still deliver?

My doubts were erased the moment he played the first strains of "Pretty World" on keyboards. Together with Brazil's new singers, Dawn Bishop and Jessica Taylor, he captivated the Pinoy audience with the same upbeat samba flair which conjured up images of fiestas, beaches and carnivals.

Older

Mendes did look older. Gone were his trademark moustache and beard, but his music soared and wove a tapestry of magic. Two unfamiliar songs, which sounded like Portuguese chants, followed.

"*Magandang gabi sa inyong lahat*," Mendes struggled to read his opening spiel in Filipino, "*Ako ay nagagalak at narito ako muli. Mahal ko kayong lahat*," to which the huge crowd responded with cheerful applause. He followed this with the classic "Girl from Ipanema," "Desafinado" and "Waters of March," alternating Portuguese and English lyrics.

At this point, Mendes called his special guest, Lani Misalucha, whom he described as "that beautiful lady with a beautiful voice."

MENDES. Did not disappoint. BETOY JOHNSON

Misalucha, who looked regal in a J.Lo-inspired blue satin gown, rendered her haunting version of "Bridges," another Mendes hit, which instantly brought to my mind childhood memories.

Misalucha sang from the heart. But she quickly exited after the perfunctory thank-you-and-I'm-glad-you-came kiss from Mendes. We felt that another song or two could have satiated our eagerness to hear more of Misalucha.

Mendes did not disappoint. His lady singers, Bishop and Taylor, rendered the famous "One Note Samba," to which the audience gamely stood and danced.

We were moved when Bishop sang a searing rendition of "Like a Lover." I've heard several versions—from Dianne Reeves to those by Brazil '66, '77 and '88, but Bishop's version beat them all.

Flowing stream

The lilt of her voice was so clear it reminded me of a flowing stream coruscating under the moonbeams. "*Naiyak ako sa* 'Like a Lover,' I overheard an old lady tell her companion.

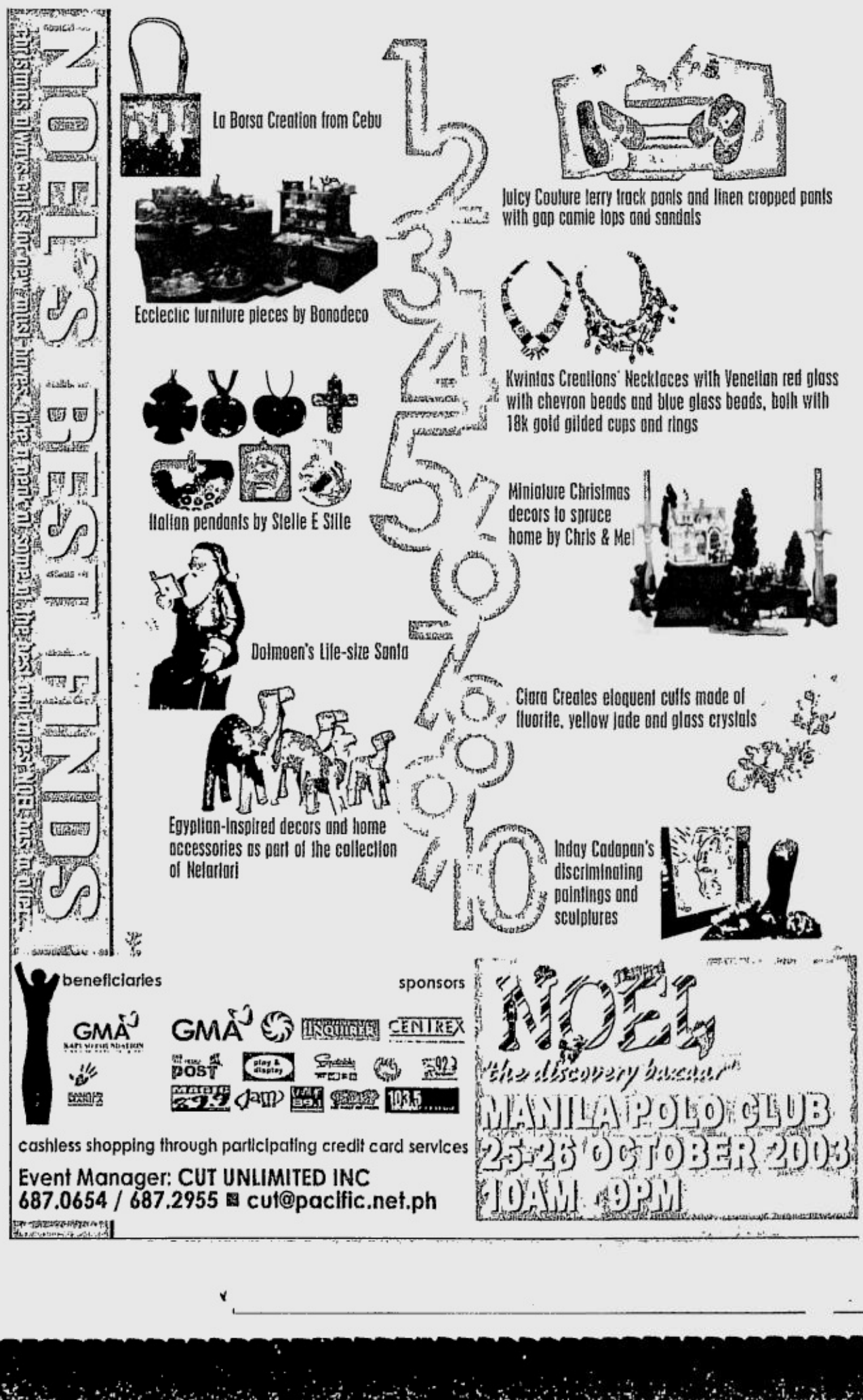
Another surprise was the black percussionist who played Brazilian musical instruments, one of which reminded me of our very own "*kulintang*." There was something contagious about the percussionist's enthusiasm that sent the crowd in a rhythmic, synchronized applause. Only an artist with the same passion and commitment could stir emotions through sheer syncopated taps, plucks and strikes.

Next on the repertoire were "The Look of Love," "Fool on the Hill" and "Mais Que Nada."

So much fun

At this point, we were having so much fun that when Mendes and company bade goodbye, we clamored for more. "Why didn't they sing 'The Trouble with Hello is Goodbye?,' my friend complained. I expected them to sing "Put A Little Love Away" and "Never Gonna Let You Go."

When Mendes came back on stage to perform two more songs, everyone cheered and danced to the upbeat Latin sounds as the swinger from Niteroi, Brazil cast his soothing musical spell to thousands of enchanted fans.



Beneficial papayas

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

HOW do you like papayas? Some people may opt for an apple or a ponkan. But there are interesting information about the papaya that could convince us to look for it next time we go marketing. Let me share with you an enlightening piece by vegetarian cooking expert Kathy Hoshijo in her book, "Kathy Cooks Naturally:"

Amazing results

"There was a story on a national newspaper about a world-famous doctor who performs organ transplants. He uses slices of papaya to heal infections on his patients when antibiotics don't work! The amazing results were that the wounds would heal within days of the application of papaya slices.

"Papaya contains a digestive substance called papaina, protein-splitting enzyme. It is found close to the skin, but a considerable amount is found in green or unripe fruits. Papayas have been recommended as an aid to digestion especially when eaten before meals, because they stimulate the secretion of digestive juices.

Good complexion

"Some people take the papaya skin after they've eaten the fruit and rub their faces with the peelings. It promotes good complexion. I used to rub it on my baby's bottom whenever he got a diaper rash, and it would heal within half a day.

"Papaya is an excellent source of vitamins A and C. It is a fair source of riboflavin and calcium.

"Stewing or baking papaya destroys seven to 12 percent of its vitamin content. When you use it with lemon or lime juice, it increases acidity and retains the vitamin C in cooked papaya. Vitamin C content increases as the fruit ripens. When the skin is dark green and the flesh is light yellow, it contains only 60 to 70 percent as much vitamin C as when it's ripe. The nutritive advantage in papaya will determine whether you'll want it green or ripe.

"The leaves of the papaya tree can also be used. The young leaves that grow from the top of the tree can be clipped and steamed, or cooked as a leafy vegetable. Don't throw away the brown leaves. They make an excellent tea."

Exciting recipes

Kathy shared some exciting recipes using papayas. Instead of *maja mais*, she came up with papaya-guava *haupia* and papaya-coconut *haupia*. For drinks, she concocted papaya shake with ripe papaya, cold milk, honey, lemon juice and cinnamon. She has even come up with papaya ice cream and dessert (papaya crumb pie, marble pie and cake). Or the papaya chutney and marmalade.

Since we have an abundance of papayas here, it's time to learn more about this beneficial fruit.

Email lotuspond108@hotmail.com

NVC'S 'STOP KISS' AT THE REPUBLIC OF MALATE

Jenny Jamora (left) and Missy Maramara topbill New Voice Company's Obie winning play, "Stop Kiss," which opens on Oct. 17 at the Republic of Malate Theater. Call 896-6695.

Richard Merk is thankful for answered prayers

By Behn Cervantes

ON March 21, 1961, James Bernard Merck passed away. He was barely 31 years old. He was never to see the son Annie Brazil bore him a few months later.

Special relationship

The American announcer had a special relationship with the jazz singer from Manila when they were both in Japan. He was an announcer at the US Base while she was a singer in a jazz club. Their love of music brought them together. Their son Richard would become one of the most exciting jazz singers of the Philippines. He is riveting when he interprets standards and infuses them with his own musical nuances.

Richard Merk is no doubt a true original. Before he was born, his father was forced to return to Cleveland, Ohio, and Annie, on the other hand, had to fly back to Manila because her father refused to allow her to join James in the United States.

Richard, now 43, was born without a father. All he knew was that his father asked about "little Ricky" in his last letter to Annie. He has not heard of his passing.

Definite steps

In 1999, Richard, with his wife Roni Tapia, decided to take definite steps to find out about his father—for his own peace of mind.

The couple wrote hundreds of letters to every James Merck listed in the US Search.

Despite many false leads, Richard and Roni were unrelenting in their search. Even those who responded in the negative wished them well and offered prayers for a successful search. This buoyed up Richard's spirit.

The beating of his heart told him his search was drawing to a close

One December night, a "priority mail" package arrived. Something told him it was what he had been waiting for. The beating of his heart told him his search was drawing to a close—and was right!

It turned out, one of the letters Richard sent fell into the hands of a cousin of James, who forwarded the information to Kathleen, James' daughter and Richard's half-sister.

Kathleen, who quickly got in touch with Richard, recounted all the information he wanted about his late father. She confided that when she was 19, her mother told her about Richard, her brother in the Philippines. Since then, she had hoped and prayed she and Richard would finally meet.

Web search

Interestingly, she was also using the same Web search to find Richard while he and Roni were diligently doing their search on the other side of the world. Although they have only spoken on the phone, their first contact was highly charged with emotions—full of happiness and electrifying excitement.

Richard was to find out that there is another brother called Michael. The siblings have since been in constant touch. Now, Richard feels complete with the thought that a brother and a sister have him in their daily prayers—and a reason to believe in miracles.

Jazz recording

He continues to be a crowd pleaser at his own place, Merk's, in Greenbelt.

On Nov. 28 he will perform in "Jazz N' Time," (also the title of his recent jazz recording) the Upsilon Sigma Phi revival of the jazz concerts the fraternity first staged in UP in 1953.

"Jazz N' Time" will also feature Mon David, Jackie Magno, Lynn Sherman, Aileen Sison, Johnny Alegre, Tots Tolentino and Verni Varga at the UP Theater at 7 p.m.

MERK. A reason to believe in miracles.

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MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	PILYA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	PILYA
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KISKISAN
CINEMA-2	KATAS
CINEMA-3	PILYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEDALLION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TREK
CINEMA-6	TAKE MY BODY
CINEMA-7	FIRST TIME
CINEMA-8	JASON VS FREDDY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDINH
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HOW TO DEAL
CINEMA-12	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
CINEMA-14	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-15	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

(LAS PINAS)	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
CINEMA-1	MEDALLION
CINEMA-2	DARK WATER
CINEMA-4	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

ARROYO. Unique physical features and distinct mannerisms.

Parameters listed to curb abuses in impersonation

From page C3

people in the west value some personalities and their positions, this does not spare them from attack. This is because the feeling there is, respect has to continually be earned, it doesn't come as a comfy part of the deal.

In egalitarian societies, leaders have to constantly prove themselves worthy of the positions they occupy, and those positions can't be expected to insulate them from criticism, and even ridicule.

In Asia, things are different, because tradition postulates that a person occupying a high position shouldn't be viciously criticized, because his position may also suffer in the process, and the nation with it. In more democratic times and climes, however, this traditional view needs to be adjusted.

Excessive and demeaning

These thoughts come to mind at this time, because there have been complaints that recent spoofs of President Arroyo have been excessive and demeaning, and have even shown disrespect to the position of president of the republic.

Reacting to these complaints, others have mounted their own protest, saying that "sanitizing" restrictions would water down the media's power to criticize, and thus expose wrongdoing on the part of our leaders.

In turn, this has elicited the contrary reaction: "But what is so 'wrong' about Gloria's (lack of) height, way of speaking, mannerisms, or favorite cliches? What is to be gained from harping on these traits? Do they have anything to do with the responsibilities of running the country?"

Impasse

Is there any way out of this contentious impasse? Some parameters: Official restrictions are out of the question, only self-regulation should be practised by TV-radio stations and the spoofers themselves.

Satire should be focused, not on physical features, but on the spoofed personalities' actuations. Cheap personal shots are just that—cheap.

For more elevated and focused political satire (on the position, not the person of the leader), the comic targets should primarily be excesses and anomalies.

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KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA GP 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00	UNDERWORLD R13 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	FINDING NEMO GP 11:05, 1:10, 3:15, 5:20, 7:25, 9:30
HOW TO DEAL PG13 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO R18 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:25, 9:40	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING R18 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20

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ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
Ali 2	PILYA
Ali 3	UNDERWORLD
Ali 4	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
Ali 5	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
Ali 6	HOW TO DEAL
Ali 7	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES

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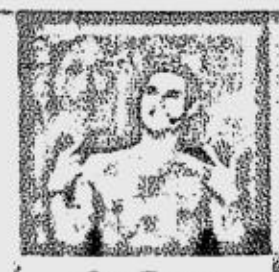


Greg Turvey

Karen delos Reyes

Ding Achacoso, Felipe Yalong and Ronnie Henares

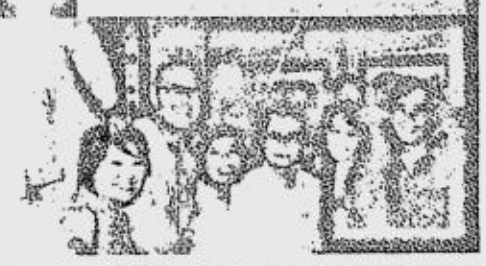
Sherwin Ordonez

Melissa Henderson, Olga Havran Happee Chua, Ted Tarriela

Iza Calzado

Atty. Felipe L. Gozon (President/CEO GMA Network, Inc.) and Amya

Chynna Ortaleza, Dyan Delfin, Iza Calzado, Sunshine Dizon, Karen delos Reyes



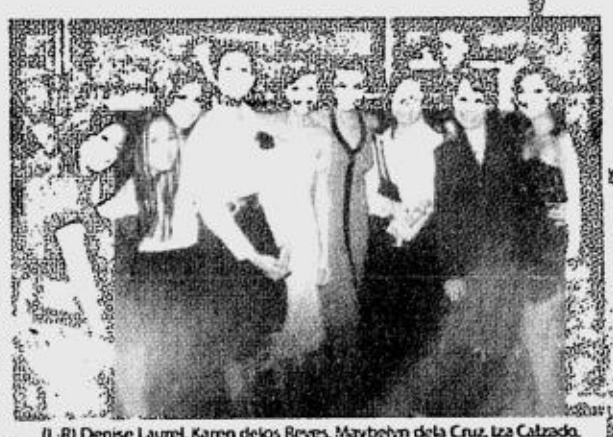
Bella Tan, Direk Freddie Santos, Sandra Chavez, Ramon Chuaying, Ida Henares, Audie Gemora

Margarette Wilson, Tricia Roman, Mark Robins and Princess Schuck

Ann- Ann

Mr. Jimmy Duterte (VP/COO GMA Network, Inc.), Ida Henares, Head-GMA Artist Center, Ronnie Henares

Brad Turvey, TJ Manotoc and Pekto



(L-R) Denise Laurel, Karen delos Reyes, Maybelyn dela Cruz, Iza Calzado, Dyan Delfin, Sunshine Dizon, Gigi Santiago, Ida Henares, Chynna Ortaleza

Mocha of Flavours

Charles And Roje Zamora

Audie Gemora and RC Baltazar

Julianne, Angel Locsin, Maybelyn

Jenny Dionela, Kristoffer Peralta, Pekto, Maybelyn dela Cruz, Iza Calzada, Ida Henares, TJ Manotoc

Regine Tolentino

Mr. Wyngard Tracy and Ida Henares

Ira Javier

(L-R) Margarette Wilson, Direk Mark Reyes and Greg Turvey

The launch that set the future of Philippine Show Business

Leading the way... to live out a dream... to fulfill a destiny

'Jimmy Neutron' voice talent finds job tedious but fun

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN we talk to makers of animated TV and movie productions, we realize that their world is full of fantasy and illusion. What you see is definitely not what really is.

Dialogue

Take the element of "voice acting," or providing the dialogue for a production's cartoon characters. Very often, the people who supply the dialogue are different in terms of physical type and age from the cartoon characters they work on.

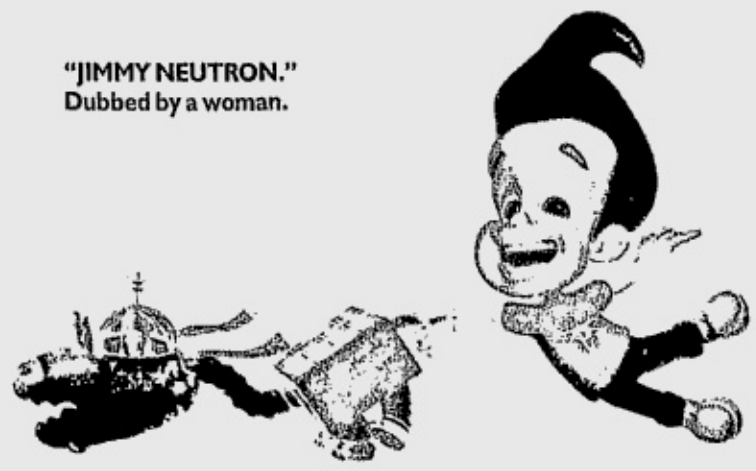
For instance, did you know that the parts of children in cartoons (both male and female) are usually voiced by adult women? That's right—Bart Simpson is voiced by Nancy Cartwright, Tommy Pickles in "Rugrats" by EG Daily and Jimmy Neutron by Debi Derryberry.

Debi explains why: "If you have a successful series and you are going into more than one season, you don't want your lead character's dubber hitting puberty and having to change voices.

Work hours

"Another factor: Having a child dubber on the set limits work hours, and requires the presence of a teacher. So, it's more convenient to hire an adult dubber. Also, male voices have broken, so women generally make better little boys than men."

How did Debi clinch the plum assignment as Jimmy Neutron's voice actor? "Well, I just happen to sound like a child. I also sing and play the guitar. I've studied voice, voice placement and acting, and found that singing, combined with acting and sounding like a child, works perfectly for cartoons.



"JIMMY NEUTRON."
Dubbed by a woman.

"For Jimmy Neutron,' they were looking for a different kind of voice that didn't sound like the Rugrats and sounded more like a little boy's. I auditioned against all of the voice talents in Los Angeles, both male and female, and just got very lucky. I suppose, sometimes you hit a winner!"

What's the most challenging aspect of voicing a cartoon? "Part of the fun, and the challenge, is having the freedom to improvise with the script. Also, it's important not to overlap the voices of the other actors, while still being able to maintain your spontaneity. You have to sustain the same energy level for four hours of each dubbing session."

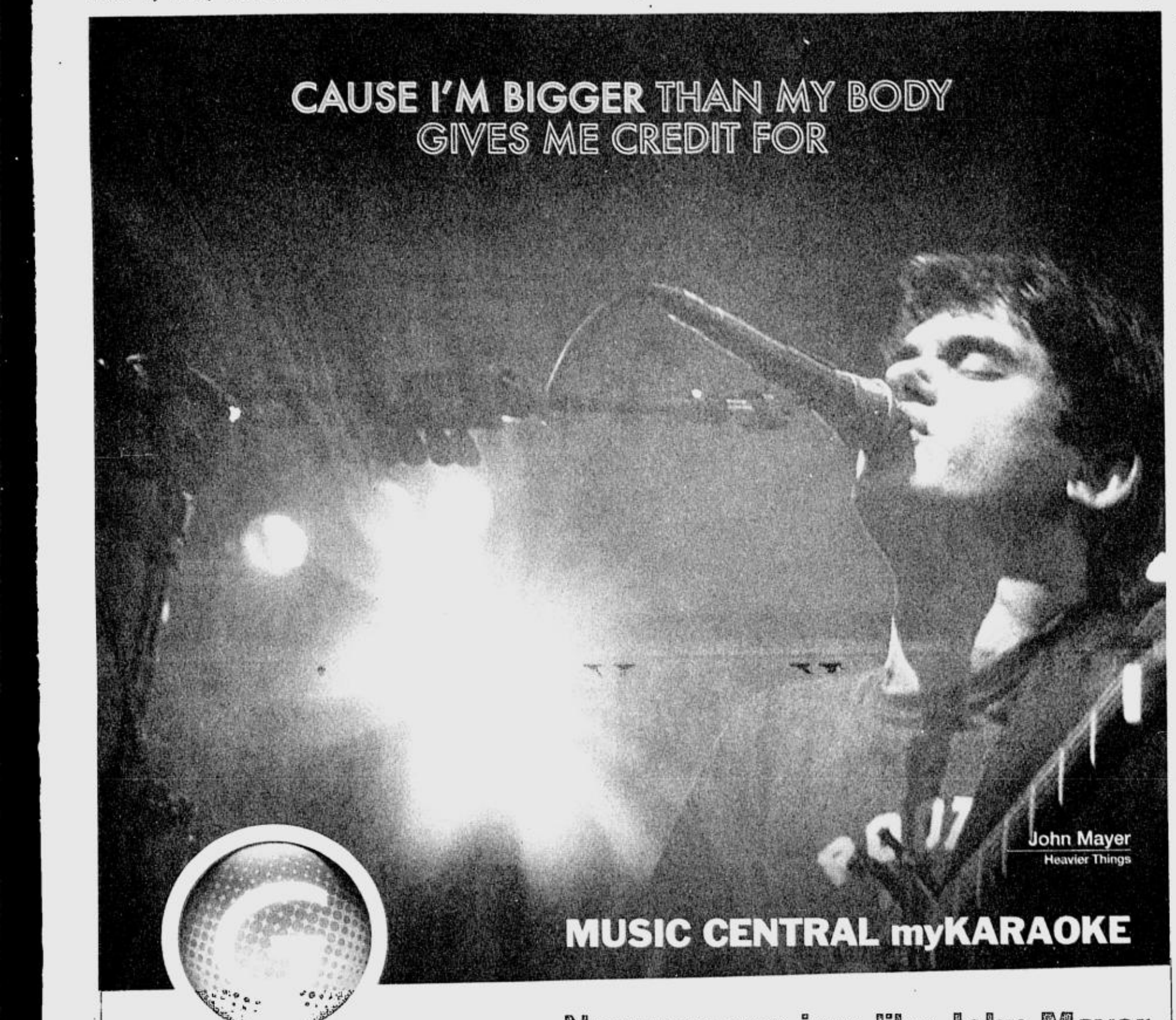
Kidding around

How long does it take to voice an episode of Jimmy Neutron? "They break the show up into 11-minute segments. Each segment can take up to four hours to dub, depending on how much kidding around the comedians do. A segment can then take up to six months to animate."

Aside from being a dubber, Debi has also acted in live-action movies. Her most unforgettable experience on a film was when she worked as the stunt double for the boy in "Free Willy." She rode the whale for him, because she was the same size he was. The job was tedious and occasionally difficult, but she did get to spend a month in Mexico.

Values

What does she like about voicing Jimmy Neutron? "Definitely, the values that the show projects to its young viewers. If they are regular viewers of our show, they've probably learned to respect hard work and intelligence. "I'm glad we have a smart kid for a role model. Parents can leave their kids alone watching Jimmy Neutron, and feel confident that they can't be badly influenced."



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Radiohead named world's best band at London awards

LONDON—British rock group, Radiohead, was voted the world's best band at the annual Q music awards, giving them the prize for the third consecutive year.

The band—whose recent sixth album, "Hail to Thief," has been praised by critics both in Britain and the United States—beat Coldplay, Foo Fighters, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Blur to take the award, chosen by readers of Britain's Q magazine.

Surprise losers

Chart giants Coldplay had received the most nominations for the awards—for best single ("Clocks"), best video ("The Scientist"), best live performers, as well as the top prize—but were the surprise losers, missing out in every category.

Christina Aguilera won the best single award for "Dirrty," Electric Six won best video for "Gay Bar," and Robbie Williams' sell-out gigs at Knebworth in southern England earned him the best live act.

Blur won best album for "Think Tank," while The Thrills picked up the best new act award.

The Cure won the inspiration award, and Duran Duran picked up the prize for lifetime achievement—just as they did at the MTV Video Music Awards in New York last August. *AP*

MAYER. Spent five weeks in the studio.

Faster is better for John Mayer's 'Heavier Things'

NEW YORK—John Mayer has felt "Bigger Than My Body" his entire life.

"That's what drives me as an artist—the vivid image of who I want to become or what I wish I was," the 25-year-old musician said of the idea behind his most recent hit single.

Back to school

"You know when it's late August and it's time to go back to school, you draw yourself in front of you and say, 'This is who I really want to be. I want everybody to see it, I want to prove it to everybody,'" he told the Associated Press. "That feeling has stayed with me my whole life, that feeling of, 'I'll show you.'"

"Bigger Than My Body" is the lead track from Mayer's new album, "Heavier Things," which debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart. It's the follow-up to 2001's triple-platinum "Room For Squares," which earned Mayer a best male pop performance Grammy for the single, "Your Body Is a Wonderland."

License

"When I went home to write the new album, I didn't put any of the plaques on the wall. I eventually just became the guy who ordered the Thai food and the guy on my license, the guy who pays the toll. I became reconnected with who I was, instead of what I looked like to other people."

The former Berklee College of Music student spent five weeks in a New York City studio working on the album before embarking on a tour with the Counting Crows. *AP*

SATURDAY Special

TESSIE TOMAS
Back to what she does best

TOMAS. Made impersonation popular.

By Nestor U. Torre

AFTER a long vacation, during which she focused on more personal concerns and recharged her energies, Tessie Tomas is back to what she does best:

Morning show

On TV, she's again hosting a weekday morning show for women ("Teysi," 8 a.m., Channel 2). And she recently went back to her stand-up comedy and impersonation roots by way of a show titled "Teysi sa CR" at the Comfort Room comedy club on Jupiter st. in Makati.

The last time we talked to Tessie, we recalled her past hit shows, in which she went from Meldita to Boni Buendia, and then some. In the process, she made stand-up and impersonation popular in these parts.

That took some doing, because Filipinos are generally *pikon*, and resent being spoofed in public. So, local spoofers have to toe a more delicate line than their counterparts in, say, the United States. There, they just flail away at the biggest and most puffed-up targets, and let the pieces (and bloody body parts) fall where they may.

Young spoofers

But Tessie and other pioneers did so well that today's young spoofers enjoy a good following in the many comedy clubs *cum* sing-along joints that have reared their pointy court-jester heads all over the country.

Tessie also recalled that we gave her the idea for one of the toughest acts she's ever had to do in her long career: We asked her to do a comic conversation between Imee Marcos and Kris Aquino, with her playing both roles!

We saw Tessie performing that challenging piece, and it was one of the most "bravura" acts we'd ever caught. We hope that Tessie can revive or update it in one of her future shows.

On TV, Tessie has quickly shown with "Teysi" that she's still unbeatable at getting herself in more than just the usual fluff that is unfairly associated with women.

Since she's a many-sided person herself, Tessie encourages other women to be similarly vital and aware, and that's all to the good.

We catch "Teysi" when we're at home in the morning, and particularly like the show's feature in which bitter foes are convinced to kiss and make up, and forgive and forget, in full view of the TV audience.

Debit side

On the debit side, we wish the show wouldn't "verbalize" its horoscope portion, because quite a number of people don't like having to hear it (they think horoscopes and fortune-telling are forms of superstition).

Run the horoscope portion, if you must, but silently, flashed on the lower part of the screen, without verbal underscoring.

That way, people who want to know their horoscope for the day can still get it, while others who don't care for it can be spared the verbalized reminders.

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OCTOBER 11 SATURDAY

"CHARLOTTE GRAY." Predictable travelogue.

"NOWHERE IN AFRICA." Sprawling epic.

"THE PRAYING MANTIS." Comedy noir.

6th Cine Europa filmfest shows the way

By Rito P. Asilo

(Conclusion)

SWEDEN'S "Adult Behavior" was the festival's runaway hit. (Could it be the title?) Excited filmgoers filled the whole cinema foyer, but organizers had to turn away more than half the crowd waiting to get in. We barely managed to squeeze ourself to the screening. The movie is a funny and revealing look at urban thirtysomethings and their constant search for sexual thrills.

Companion piece

In many ways, "Adult Behavior" can be a companion piece to Mans Herngren's "Adam and Eve" (1997), which takes place in the same Stockholm circles. Characterized by a brisk pace and a generous dose of funny one-liners, the film employs voice-overs that are in direct contrast to what takes place onscreen. The ingenious device works well for sometime, but it eventually loses its novelty.

"Nowhere in Africa" is a sprawling epic that truly deserves its best foreign language prize at the Oscars. Predicting the internment of Jews in Germany, a man takes his family to Kenya, enduring poverty and his struggle to adjust to a foreign culture. The film comes off as a more personal film than Spielberg's "Schindler's List," and definitely more successful than the Kim Basinger-starrer, "I Dreamed of Africa."

The rambling narrative undercuts the potential power of the story, leaving the cast to muddle about in soap-opera*ish* moments when bigger ideas could have been addressed.

Splendor and poverty

The camera successfully captures Kenya's contrasting splendor and poverty. The haunting score paints a portrait of cultural displacement at its best.

"Shades" is an intense film-within-a-film, shot MTV-style. It follows the difficulties of filming the biopic of a notorious criminal.

"Profession of Arms" boasts of glossy cinematography but is dragged down by a droll pace—a humorless visual spectacle.

Gillian Armstrong's "Charlotte Gray" was a last-minute addition to the festival's lineup. Its narrative tends to be predictable and unimaginative. We liked the film only as a travelogue.

Portugal's "Captains of April," veteran actress Maria de Medeiros' directorial debut, documents the events that lead to a coup d'etat. Occasionally affecting, the film reminds us of our own People Power uprisings.

Amenabar's "The Others," of course, is by now a classic thriller—masterfully told, exquisitely produced and wonderfully acted by Nicole Kidman and the rest of the cast. The film creates suspense not by its special effects but by a rising tension that the director executes so well.

Character study

Thomas Vincent's "Karnaval" is a captivating character study carried by empathetic protagonists.

Paul van der Oest's "Zus and Zo" is a Chekhovian comedy, told as a paean to the likes of Ang Lee's "The Wedding Banquet" or Ryosuki Hashiguchi's "Hush."

Roughly translated to "This and That," the film is not all that original nor is it overwhelmingly funny, but it is kept afloat by the stylish camera work, dynamic storytelling and spirited performances.

Paul Harather's "The Praying Mantis' ("The Black Widow") is a comedy noir about a wife who gets away with the murder of her husband. The story of a predatory female is predictable, but the fast-paced editing and the film's exotic locales make this a pleasurable romp.

Television needs to be child-friendly

By Nestor U. Torre

SOME people think that television is a harmless medium because TV sets are so much a part of our homes and lives that they have become practically invisible. It's out of sight, out of mind—and that's precisely the problem! Because we're so used to having it around, we aren't aware of its power to shape us and our attitudes, for good and bad.

Unusually vulnerable

This is even more pertinent to children, who are unusually vulnerable to TV's importunings because they aren't aware of its persuasive force, and are too young to build up defenses against it.

They are also powerless to stop its negative effects on them, so it's the responsibility of adults to make sure that television does its work responsibly. That there's so much about local TV to criticize indicates how poorly we adults have done at the critical task of protecting young viewers from the excesses of bad TV.

Operative rule

The operative rule on TV is: All programming, especially during the daytime and evening hours, has to presume that there are children watching, so programs have to tone down their content and treatment to make sure that young viewers aren't exposed to TV fare that they're too immature to adequately handle.

The only exceptions are programs telecast late at night, when it can be reasonably presumed that most children are asleep.

However, what we see on local TV contradicts and even nullifies this rule. Early in the morning, TV talents talk about sex. On noontime shows, sexy stars cavort and gyrate in skimpy outfits. In the afternoon, sex and salacious jokes continue to be dispensed. In the evening, sitcoms up the ante in terms of green and brown humor, sexual innuendo and other racy fare. And, late at night, the humor turns even browner and greener!

Of late, the regulatory bodies have started to chide erring TV people for this blatantly irresponsible misuse of the medium. But the sanctions they've imposed have barely scratched the surface of the TV industry's sins of omission and commission.

Young viewers

For efforts to "defend" and protect young viewers to become truly effective, regular monitoring groups have to be created and activated, not only by the regulatory groups, but also by private organizations concerned about irresponsible practices on the TV screen.

Individual televiewers should similarly become more proactive when they watch TV. They should note down both the things they like and don't like while they're viewing, and let the channels and media outlets know what they think.

Good work

It's important that they also praise good work, because we don't want this movement for reforms to be sourly negative.

Most importantly, we should keep reminding ourselves that we're doing this, not for our own benefit, but for the millions of young viewers in this country who are too clueless or powerless to speak up and protect themselves against the cynical blandishments of TV at its most irresponsible.

Hugh Grant takes his second chances to heart

From page D3

Jay Leno once told the London Independent that Hugh was one of only 18 celebrities worth having on a chat show. Grant was voted fourth in the 2001 Orange Film Survey of the greatest British film actors.

He will be seen next in "Love Actually," and will soon reprise his role as Daniel Cleaver in "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason," with Renée Zellweger

'Kung Ako Na Lang Sana'

Go watch the blockbuster, "Kung Ako Na Lang Sana" if you haven't seen it yet. The highly entertaining film by Jose Javier Reyes is anchored by delightful performances (Sharon Cuneta, Aga Muhlach, Mickey Ferriols and Christine Bersola), and Reyes' tight and brisk handling of the material.

NVC and 'TVM' notes

If you missed the recent staging of "The Vagina Monologues," catch it at the Class of '72 Theater in UP Manila on Oct. 18, Saturday. The Filipino version will feature exciting actresses Jingle Buena, Maris Dimayuga and Thea Tadiar at 3 p.m., and the English version will star top actresses Dulce Aristorenas, Lily Chu and Lara de Jesus at 7 p.m. Call Rhea Salonga at 0917-4195015. The "TVM" team will then fly to Hong Kong and Singapore. Call NVC at 896-6695.

Also, we would like to invite theater buffs to our latest play, the Obie award winner, "Stop Kiss," a romantic dramedy that examines homophobia, which opens on Oct. 17 at the Republic of Malate. Also in the cast are Jenny Jamora, Missy Maramara, Tami Monsod, Jamie Wilson and Rabbi Gannaban.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM OCT 11 TO OCT 17

CH									
	6:00 Meteor Garden 6:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 8:30 Home Along da Airport 9:30 Buttercup 10:30 Kontrobersyal 11:30 "F" 12:00 Sports Unlimited	7:00 Yan Ang Pinoy 8:00 The Working President 9:00 To be Announced	7:00 Sailormoon Sailor Stars 7:30 Mirror, Mirror 8:00 Wow Mali! 9:00 Viva Box Office 11:00 Go For Gold	6:00 Search for a Star 7:00 Imbestigador 8:00 Idol Ko Si Kap 9:30 Kakabakaba Adventures 10:30 Blockbuster Cinema 12:00 Master Showman	6:00 Isumbong Mo Kay Tulfo 7:00 7 Days 8:00 John Doe 9:00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11:00 PGMA	5:00 PBA Provincial Game 7:00 Kalsetera 8:00 Amazing Twins 9:00 Global Family Series 10:00 Japan Video Topics 11:00 Iyo ang Katarungan	5:00 Baywatch 7:00 Game Plan 7:30 The Amazing Race 8:30 Boston Public 9:30 Studio 23 Presents 11:30 Reel Deal	7:00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9:00 Oras Ng Katotohanan 9:30 Armor of God 10:00 Oh Tokyo 11:00 Pinoy Wrestling	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! News Weekend 7:00 Celebrity Profile 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
	5:30 Sharon 7:00 Wansapanataym 8:30 Tanging Ina 9:30 Sunday Family Cinema 11:30 Dong Puno Tonight 12:00 The Weekend News	6:00 PBA First Filipino cup 9:00 The Working President 10:00 Concert of Various Artist	6:00 Zorro 6:30 Guylerd 7:00 Ispup atpb 8:00 Sing-Galing 9:00 Viva Cine Idols 11:00 Speed	5:30 Partners Mel & Jay 7:00 K! 8:30 Daddy Di Do Du 9:30 Sunday Night Box Office 11:20 Flash Report 11:30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents	6:00 Smack Down Wrestling 7:00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8:00 Match TV 9:00 Sunday's Big Event 11:00 Sunday Report	5:00 PBA First Filipino cup 9:00 Sinemaks 11:00 Global Family Series 11:30 El Shaddai	5:00 Jimmy Neutron 6:30 Futurama 7:00 Exposed 8:00 Yes Dear 8:30 Spin City 9:00 Will & Grace 9:30 The Bachelor 10:30 Digital Tour	7:00 Sunday Mass-Server 8:00 Oh Tokyo 9:00 Sunday Night movies	5:30 CBS Evening News 6:00 E! Coming Attractions 6:30 FYE 7:00 E! Original Specials 8:00 Rank 9:00 Revealed w/ Jules Asner 10:00 Movies on E!
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 Darating Ang Umaga 9:00 Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Misis 11:00 Insider 11:30 The Correspondents	6:00 Concert at the Park 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 Family Rosary Crusade 11:00 Auto Focus	6:00 F 6:30 Bantang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 That 70s Show 9:00 On Air 9:30 Misadventures of Maverick and Ariel 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Mad TV	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Endless Love 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Da Boy and Da Girl 11:00 Saksi 11:30 I-Witness	5:00 Dulce Maria 7:00 Just for Laffs 8:00 Jag 9:00 The Agency 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 Sex & the City 11:00 OPTV	6:00 Quantum Info 6:30 Global Family Series 7:00 Japan Video Topics 9:00 Global Family Series 9:30 Fight Time at Elorde 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Linawin Natin	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Birds of Prey 9:00 Charmed 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Travel Time	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Q Showcase 9:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Behind The Scenes 7:30 Mysteries & Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 Best of Late Show 11:00 Wild On
	6:00 TV Patrol 6:30 Next Level Na, Game K N B? 7:00 Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay 7:30 Basta't Kasama Kita 8:00 Sana'y Wala Nang Wakas 8:30 Darating Ang Umaga 9:00 OK Fine! Whatever 11:00 Insider 11:30 Pipol	6:00 Paco Park Presents 7:00 Strangebrew 7:30 In the Raw 8:00 TeleDyaryo 10:00 The Working President 11:00 Family Rosary Crusade	6:00 2 Years Vacation w/ Dinosaurs 6:30 Bantang-Balita 7:00 Problema Nyo, Sagot Ko 7:30 Kool on Kam 8:30 Campus TV 9:00 E.R 10:00 The Big News 10:30 Wedding Works 11:00 Bugs	6:15 Frontpage 7:00 Extra Challenge 7:30 Habang Kapiling Ka 8:10 Endless Love 8:50 Narito Ang Puso Ko 9:30 Kool Ka Lang Oo Naman 11:00 Saksi 11:30 The Probe Team	6:00 Dulce Maria 7:00 Ed 8:00 Ally McBeal 9:00 The Practice 10:00 Newswatch Now 10:30 GSIS @ Ur Service 11:00 Sports in Focus	6:00 Game Channel 7:00 US Tennis Open 8:00 Global Family Series 9:00 Japan Video Topics 10:00 Travel 10:30 IBC News Tonite 11:00 Up Close and Personal	6:00 Beast Machines 6:30 Godzilla 7:00 Batman 7:30 Samurai X 8:00 Dawson's Creek 9:00 Smallville 10:00 News Central 10:30 Oprah 11:30 Twilight Zone	6:30 Q Showcase 7:30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8:00 Ang Dating Daan	6:00 E! News Live 7:00 Extreme Close Up 7:30 Mysteries and Scandals 8:00 E! True Hollywood Story 9:00 E! News Live 10:00 David Letterman 11:00 Wild On
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003 SATURDAY Special D

Hugh Grant takes his second chances to heart

SHOW BIZ Q&A

Rito P. Asilo

FROM Bennie Bernardo: **"Please write about my favorite actor, Hugh Grant. The guy is versatility personified! He can do comedy and drama with equal ease."**

Hugh Grant, 43, turned to acting in his final year in Oxford University. He got his start in acting by performing in a British comedy sketch group, The Jockeys of Norfolk.

It was not until he was 27 years old, though, that he received international recognition by winning Venice filmfest's best actor prize for his portrayal of a young man confronting his homosexuality in Merchant-Ivory's "Maurice."

GRANT. Self-effacing wit.

Charismatic grace

His delightful turn in 1994's "Four Weddings and a Funeral," in a role specifically written for him by the movie's scriptwriter, propelled him to Hollywood stardom. His versatility, charismatic grace and comic flair—not unlike Cary Grant's—are a rarity among our actors today.

He shifts from dramatic features ("Impromptu," "Remains of the Day," "Restoration," "Sense and Sensibility") to classy comedies ("Notting Hill," "Four Weddings," "Bridget Jones' Diary," "About a Boy") with ease. But he considers himself a more effective actor onstage than onscreen. At one point, he appeared in "Hamlet" where all the actors wore "Star Trek" costumes.

In another school play, he was called to sing "If They Could See Me Now," but came in way out of key, they had to stop and start again. This was why he could relate to "About the Boy's" young protagonist—he could still remember the laughing, pointing and jeering of the audience.

The actor met Elizabeth Hurley, his most visible former fianceé, while working on "Rowing in the Wind" (he played Lord Byron, she Claire Clairmont) in Spain.

Notoriety

He gained some notoriety when he was arrested for lewd conduct after cops caught him with a prostitute, and was fined $1,180. In fact, he was featured in the 1996 paperback, "Mug Shots," which included other infamous celebrities caught in various moments of indiscretion.

With his characteristic self-effacing wit, he laughed off the incident on Jay Leno's show, and survived that career-threatening episode in his life.

If anything, the "dark" incident only proved that celebrities are just as fallible as we are—with frailties not much different from ours. And that we *should* learn not only from their triumphs, but also from their weaknesses.

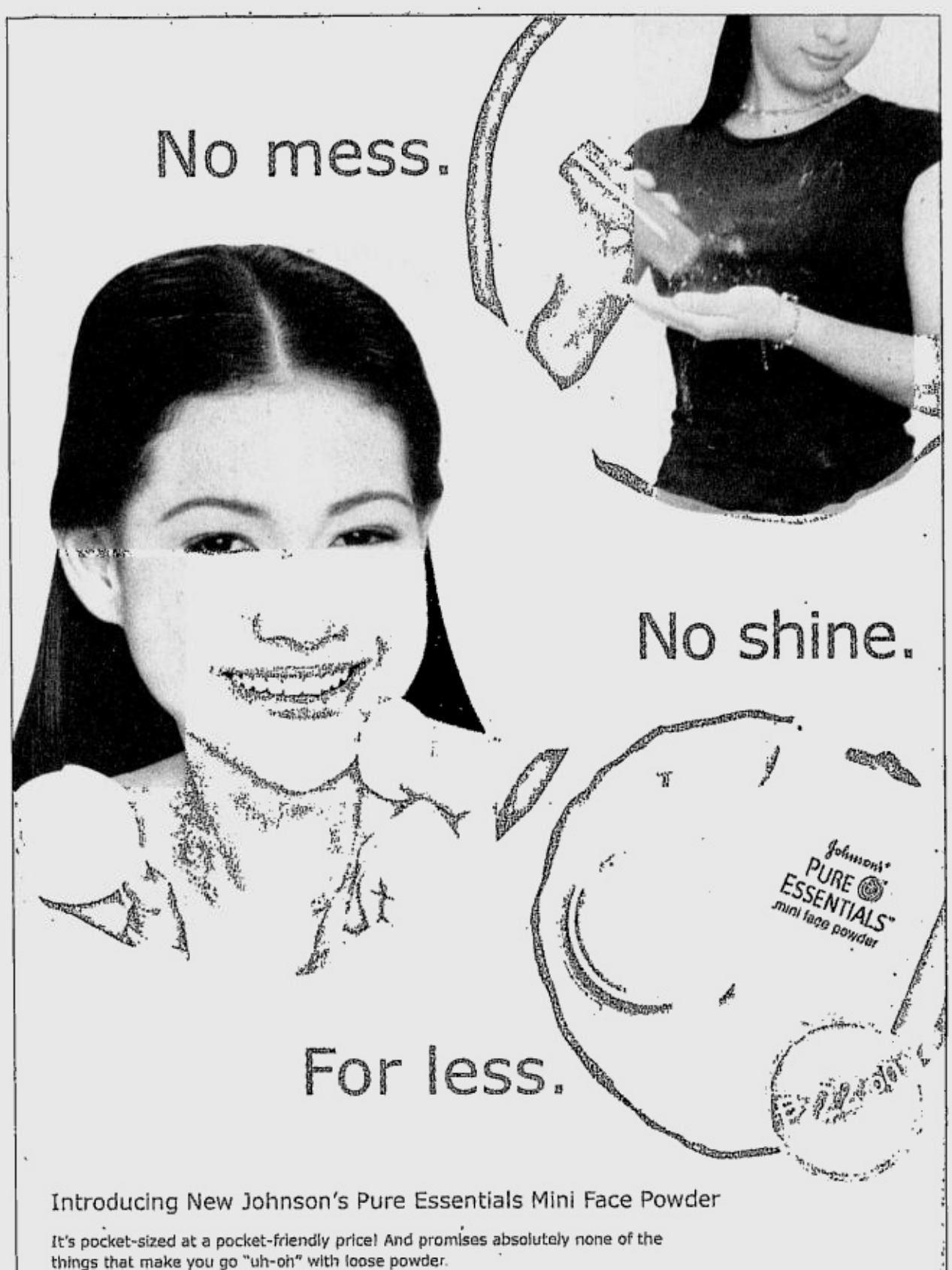
You have to give him credit, though, for being well-liked in the acting business. On the set of "Mickey Blue Eyes," James Caan gave Hugh the nickname "Whippy" because the 5'11" British star worried about everything. Grant would put sweaters on dogs when he thought they were cold.

Old softie

Grant joked back at Caan: "He (Caan) likes to think that he's hard, but he's an old softie. My real theory is that he fell in love with me during the filming. There's a lot of kissing and hugging in mob films. I started to notice that his hugs were lasting longer than they needed to last. And then, there were the longing looks across the set. Then I'd get back to my apartment and find him curled up outside my door. It's embarrassing when you've got to work together! And then, he started writing me poems!" What sense of humor, huh?

In an interview with the San Francisco Examiner, he was asked about his favorite movie kiss. He readily said, "I'd have to say . . . Tom Arnold. He improvised knocking me down on the sand in 'Nine Months,' putting his mouth on mine. He got a big laugh, so he did it several times more. That would be my favorite gay role."

HUGH/ D2



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Where Is The Love	*Black Eyed Peas*	TONE WERISLUV
Ignition	*R. Kelly*	TONE IGNI
Tuwing Umuulan At Kapiling Ka	*Regine Velasquez*	TONE UMUULAN
Unwell	*Matchbox 20*	TONE UNWELL
Broken Vow	*Lara Fabian*	TONE BROKEN
Can't Lose You	*F4*	TONE CANTLOSE
Here We Are	*F4*	TONE HEREWE
Thola Thoing	*R. Kelly*	TONE THOIA
Bliss	*Alice Peacock & John Mayer*	TONE BLISS
Get Busy	*Sean Paul*	TONE GETBUSY
Build Me Up, Buttercup	*Sound Alike*	TONE BUTTERCUP
If You're Not The One	*Daniel Bedingfield*	TONE IFYOURNOT
Paraiso	*Smokey Mountain*	TONE PARAISO
We Can	*Le-Ann Rhymes*	TONE WECAN
Faint	*Linkin Park*	TONE FAINT
We Are The Champions	*Queen*	TONE CHAMPIONS
Sleep With The Lights On	*Busted*	TONE SLEEPWITH
Asereje	*Las Ketchup*	TONE ASEREJE
The Loneliest Person I Know	*Splender*	TONE LONELIEST
Perfect	*True Faith*	TONE PERFECT
I Know What You Want	*Busta Rhymes And Mariah*	TONE IKNOWAT
Limang Dipang Tao	*Lea Salonga*	TONE LIMANG
All I Have	*Jennifer Lopez*	TONE ALLIHAVE
Iris	*Googoo Dolls*	TONE IRIS
Buffalo Soldier	*Bob Marley*	TONE BUFFALO
Love Me For A Reason	*Osmonds*	TONE LOVEME
Kung Maibabalik Ko Lang	*Regine Velasquez*	TONE MAIBALIK

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Tarantino and his leading ladies talk about his new film

TARANTINO. Known for his violent gangster flicks. AP

LONDON—Cult film director Quentin Tarantino said that his latest violent offering, "Kill Bill," is all about girl power.

The film is Tarantino's first major feature since "Jackie Brown" six years ago. It tells the story of an elite assassin, played by Uma Thurman, who is on a mission of revenge against her former employer, Bill, played by David Carradine.

Extremely gory

"Kill Bill" is reported to be extremely gory, even for Tarantino, well-known for his violent gangster flicks such as "Reservoir Dogs" and "Pulp Fiction," as well as the shlock-horror vampire movie, "From Dusk Till Dawn."

At a press conference before the film's London premiere, Tarantino said that over 100 gallons (378.53 liters) of fake blood had been used for the movie, and described how one fight scene, in which Thurman dismembers 88 opponents with a Japanese sword, took over eight weeks to shoot.

Enemies

"I wanted to think up every way I could for her (Thurman) to disband and put an end to her enemies," Tarantino said.

The director went on to talk about a gang-rape scene in the movie, which he said was a "sequence of hell," and of which he was very proud.

TARANTINO/ E3

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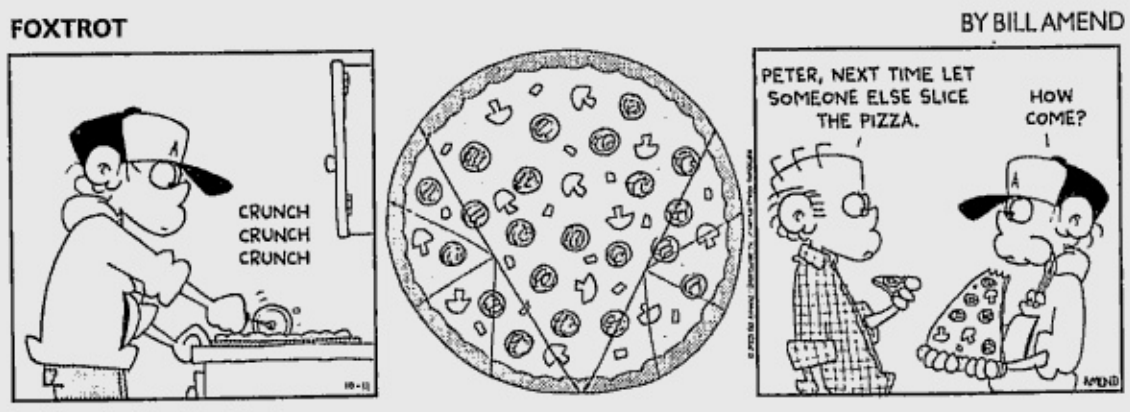

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MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You appreciate the finer things in life. You have charm, and you enjoy a comfortable lifestyle, which includes art and good friendship from all walks of life. You are highly social and enjoy working with others. This year some of your cherished dreams could come true. It might be the best year of your life.
Birthdate of: Daryl Hall, musician; Michelle Trachtenberg, actress; Luke Perry, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Conversations with partners and close friends are important today. You have an opportunity to improve things in some way. Be open to advice from others.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a great day to improve your health in some way. Start by deciding what you can give up or quit. Think about diet and unhealthy habits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day for some deep thinking. You can get to the bottom of something you're working on. You have an opportunity to influence young minds today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an excellent day for cleaning up any kind of situation that has become disordered and confused. Get rid of clutter. It's a good day to clean house and recycle or throw out unnecessary stuff.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is the perfect day to make changes in your immediate environment. Change or reform any circumstances that you're unhappy with. Pluto will help you do the job today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): You might have a chance to use your money or resources to help others today. Seize any opportunity that comes your way to promote the general welfare of others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have the power to transform situations around you, or even to change your own appearance today. Whatever changes you implement will be for the better.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is an excellent day for meditation, yoga or quiet contemplation. You want a better understanding of certain problems. Whatever you investigate will yield results.

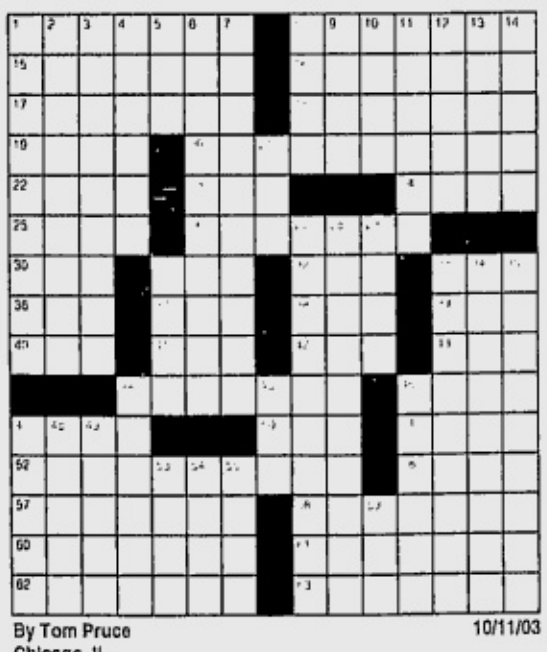
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might talk to somebody who is quite powerful today. You admire what this person says. Possibly, you are the person who impresses others. Either way, conversations are profound.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): You might have to confront a power group today or a very strong person. This could force you to revise your goals in order to align them with the goals of a group.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You find it easy to work carefully when investigating deep subjects today. Psychology, the occult or techniques of personal transformation attract you now.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): This is a fabulous day for research! Leave no stone unturned. No matter what you want to find out, you will succeed. Secrets just come to you now.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Tom Pruce
Chicago, IL

10/11/03

ACROSS
1 Permanently
8 Superlatively skimpy
15 Middle of the road
16 Banquet VIP
17 Modifies
18 Pyrenees republic
19 Med. scans
20 Orwell's year
22 Guitarist Atkins
23 Fruit beverage
24 Blighted trees
25 Ayres and Wallace
26 Come back in
30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai et al.
31 TV adjunct
32 Common conjunctions
33 One Gabor
36 Yow, it's cold!
37 Gotcha!
38 __ mitzvah
39 Poetic contraction
40 '60s campus org.
41 Butterfly snare
42 WSW opp.
43 "__ Haw"
44 Besets
46 Kitchen fixture
47 Guevara and others
50 Sgt.'s underling
51 Toddlers
52 Grade-B Western
56 Upolu Island city
57 French street-scenes painter
58 Venetian or Florentine
60 Of the tongue
61 New nation?
62 Damascus populace
63 "Lou Grant" star

DOWN
1 MLB training teams
2 Learned by eavesdropping
3 Critics
4 Quantities of ground grain
5 PAU's successor
6 Certain pointed entryways
7 Very necessary things
8 Persian ruler
9 French bridge
10 Warhol or Williams
11 Man with shingles?
12 Actor Flynn
13 Blood component
14 Crocodile __
21 Thousand bucks
27 International award
28 Interpreted
29 In __ (existing): Lat.
31 Moving vehicles
33 Haile Selassie, e.g.
34 Capital of Laos
35 Writer Solzhenitsyn
44 Birthplace of St. Francis
45 Rocks for a fence?
46 Stable compartments
47 Gulps
48 Very actively
49 Mistake
53 Actress Lanchester
54 Heroine of "The Good Earth"
55 D.C. old-timers
59 Drivers' org.

Friday's Puzzle Solved

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10/11/03

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

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LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Ate Luds on my mind

By Ansel Beluso

(Conclusion)

WHEN Aiko Melendez guested on "Eye to Eye" before going to her debut, *Ate* Luds presented to her a heart-wrenching interview with her dad Jimi Melendez, who was dying in a remote seashore village in Batangas.

But *Ate* Luds was averse to inventing news. While others resorted to manufacturing lies which they then asked the movie stars concerned to react to—an exercise that they passed on as news reporting—*Ate* Luds always chose to dig. "There is no need to invent news," she always said. "You just have to dig deeper, and there's always a gem out there waiting to be found."

CARVAJAL. Self-deprecating humor.

Very happy

I remember *Ate* Luds being very happy about a reaction that was attributed to Fernando Poe Jr. when "Eye to Eye" went off the air. The king of Philippine Movies said, "Without Inday, we will never know what the truth is about show biz news."

"Be aware always about the fine line that divides friendship and show biz truth, and always choose to be on the side of friendship, because show biz truth is all a matter of perception."

I saw it happen often: When her friends went through rough times, *Ate* Luds always chose to be by their side, even at the expense of her own credibility as a broadcaster.

Because of this, when bigger issues happened, her friends always honored her with the first shot at the truth.

"Truth in show biz is different from truth in politics," *Ate* Luds once explained to me.

"In show biz, when a movie star tells a lie, it is entertaining. In politics, when a politician tells a lie, no matter how small, it can ruin the nation."

"Beware of people you don't know—but, even more, of people you do know."

Genuine love for people

Ate Luds' people skills were incredible. If she were fish, people were her water. And she could swim both in fresh and tropical waters. She had genuine love and affection for people.

This was the key to her success. She knew what made people tick. She knew what turned them on or off. She also knew about the exquisite joy of loyalty, as well as the bitter taste of betrayal.

"Friendship in show biz does not exist. So you have to make it for yourself. Friendship in show biz is an act of will."

Ate Luds was known by all, but she once admitted to me that she only had very few friends in show biz. A lot of her friends were not from the entertainment world. They were "ordinary" people who derived nothing from her except the joy of simple friendship.

"In show biz, when you see someone who can be a friend, hold on to that person and protect your relationship with everything you've got. Friendship is measured not by what you can get from it, but by what you are willing to give up for it—so choose wisely. A good friendship can enrich you, but a bad one can bankrupt you."

Wrong choices

Ate Luds gave up a lot for friendship. Of course, it was very sad that a few of these friendships proved to be wrong choices.

"Show biz is serious business. But never take yourself seriously. Laugh hard—and laugh hardest at yourself."

Ate Luds' self-deprecating humor was legendary. *"Hoy! Anak ako ng* ambassador, *'no!,"* she'd holler at anyone who pointed out some gaffe or breach in protocol she had committed. *"Ako pa?,"* she'd self-mockingly proclaim each time a folly or foible was attributed to her, and you couldn't help but laugh at her little idiosyncracies.

Goodbye, *Ate* Luds.

LEONARDO bags

SM DEPARTMENT STORE We've got it all for you!

Best-tasting instant noodles

WORD OF MOUTH

Sandy Daza

VISITING my fast food outlets in the malls can be boring at times, specially after peak hours at lunchtime. When that happens, I either watch a movie, walk around to window-shop, or just browse around the supermarket.

At the grocery, (Robinsons Galleria) the aisles that interest me are the seafood, meats, candy, juices, *chicheria* sections, and just recently, the noodles section.

Sample

Just a few years back, there were only a few of instant noodles. Today, there is a whole long aisle of instant noodles of various kinds and makes. I was curious about how each tasted, so I decided to buy a sample of each and do my own taste test. Here are the ones that joined my "*mababaw na* minicompetition":

Quickchow Bihon Guisado, Quickchow Pancit Palabok, Quickchow Instant Mami pork, Quickchow Pancit Canton, Lucky Me Pancit Canton Chilimansi, Lucky Me original flavor, Lucky Me Yakisoba beef teriyaki, Nissin's yakisoba savory beef, Maggi Milky noodle soup, Pista pancit ulam spicy chicken barbecue, Pista pansit ulam bistek flavor, Yakiudon chili hot flavor, Ho Mi instant beef mami noodles, Tekki ramen beef stew and Saucy Me Pancit Canton.

I made sure I was hungry for the taste test. I had the 15 bowls numbered and a glass of water ready to wash down the flavor in between tastes.

Here are the results of the test: Among the dry and wet ones, my first choice is the Saucy Me Pancit Canton. The Pista pancit ulam spicy chicken barbecue is also good; one of the best is the Lucky Me yakisoba beef teriyaki. Also good were the Lucky Me original flavor, Quickchow Pancit Canton, Lucky Me Pancit Canton chili (a bit bland, though), Quickchow pancit palabok and Ho Mi instant beef mami noodles.

Funny

Funny how one of them is called Pancit ulam. We're the only country I know that eats pancit with rice. Those other countries are missing half their life!

My next project is to try the different sardines in the market. That should be interesting.

I no longer get bored roaming the malls. I have found something interesting to kill time.

Happy eating!

For comments, email sandydaza@shaw.ca

Tarantino . . .

From page E1

Seated next to Thurman and the other female stars of the film, Daryl Hannah and Julia Dreyfus, Tarantino said "Kill Bill" was a feminist statement, "a film about girl power."

Favorite scenes

Thurman told journalists that her favorite scenes were when she used her sword.

"I am very possessive of my sword," Thurman said. "I became one with it, I earned it and I had to learn the hard way how to handle that thing."

"Kill Bill" is in two installments with the second volume expected to be released next year.

Later, as Tarantino joined his stars on the red carpet at the Leicester Square premiere, he defended his use of stylized "movie world" violence. He also encouraged children to see the film despite its "18" rating in Britain, meaning no one younger than that age is allowed to view it at the cinema.

"If you are a 12-year-old girl or boy you must go and see 'Kill Bill' and you will have a damn good time," the director said. "Boys will have a great time, girls will have a dose of girl power. If you are a cool parent out there go take your kids to the movie." *AP*

CHRISTINE CARLOS SINGS AT AZZURRO BISTRO

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Super! countdown
75 days til
Christmas

SATURDAY Super!

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Contributing Editor **Pam Pastor**
Creative Director **Tim Yap**

Another supermodel story

I JUST saw a naked woman inside Mc Donald's.

Nope, this wasn't some wacko trying to scare kids inside my favorite restaurant, or Kris Aquino pulling another stunt.

The woman is Gayle Ong, professional model, breezes in and out of go-sees, shoots and ramp shows. Part of a model's skill is her speed at changing outfits faster than you can say, "Work it!"

She had just flown back to Manila after a whirlwind runway hop around Asia where she did shows for Jean Paul Gaultier, BCBG Max Azria, M phosis, among other high-pro names. "God has been very good to me," Gayle says, very down-to-earth.

China doll

When photographer Paolo Pineda started to shoot, Gayle's six-foot frame morphed into a svelte chameleon—shifting from seductress to shy China doll to glam geisha and back. "Her face is like a blank canvas—you can play with it, and you can be sure she'll carry the look," says Shu Uemura's "avantguardian" Xeng Zulueta.

Flashback to high school. I went backstage to

Tim Yap

console the "thank-you girls" of the biggest pageant in the history of St. Jude Catholic School—Miss Sportsfest. A senior chick was crying on my shoulder when I spotted a freshman Gayle, who had joined the pageant the second time around. She also had tears in her eyes.

I walked up to her and said, "This may not be your moment but, mark my words, you *will* be a model."

Fast forward to Rajo Laurel's gala year 2001. Gayle strutted to the syncopated beat of the edgy show music with panache. After the show, I jumped backstage and ran towards Gayle. "Now the world is yours—and it's only the beginning!"

Runway award

A week later, she was competing for the Supermodel title. She didn't win with the top plum, but she went home with the Runway award. To think that at first, as in all supermodel stories, she had been hesitant to join. "I was just scared to catch the ire of director Ariel Lozada, (the one who discovered her). He encouraged me to join," said the girl who had grown up in a traditional environment. "I was scared of the swimsuit competition, too."

Her mentor, Cal Carries' head honcho Joey Espino had one word for her: "Believe."

After graduation, she made Singapore her base. There she found her true calling. "It's not just about modelling. I think travelling is the best way to learn about yourself."

Tsinoy stereotype

Gayle now recalls her high school days: "My goal was just to land in the school paper. I soon learned that if you pray hard for something and still don't get it—God is planning to give it to you some other way."

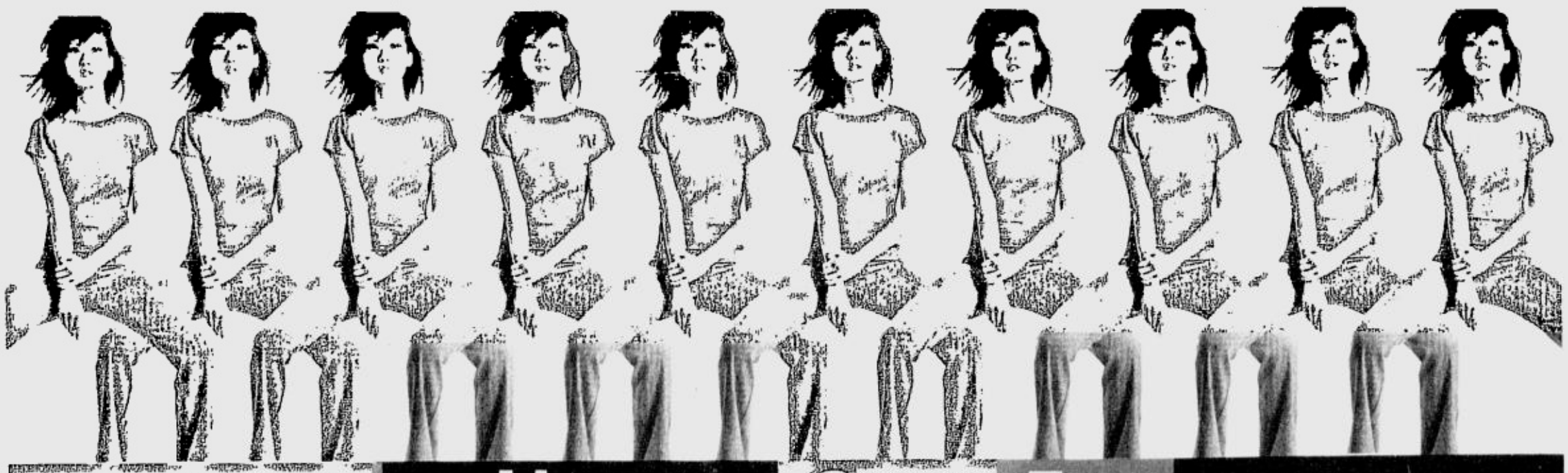
Impressive, the way she expresses her inner strength, despite some people who disapprove of her chosen profession: "I don't try to explain anymore."

Lest we think her life abroad is all roses and white chocolate, in truth it resembles a reality-TV-star-in-a-million-search. "I do my own laundry, clean up, do everything—unlike here (in Manila) where we have all the comforts."

When faced with adversity, she holds her head high. "My parents brought me up this way, so they should trust me." The normal career path for Chinese girls is to finish school, work in a bank, get married and have kids, settle down and fade away. She questions this Tsinoy stereotype: "What's the point in that?"

(The Supermodel screening will happen tomorrow, Sunday, at Hotel Inter-Continental Manila 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For details, call 844-0350.)

Photo by Paolo Pineda, Makeup by Xeng Zulueta of Shu Uemura, Venue: McDonald's Greenbelt
Special thanks to Kenneth Yang



Advertising's It Boy page G4

I love Lego page H2

Queer Eye for the Straight guy page F3

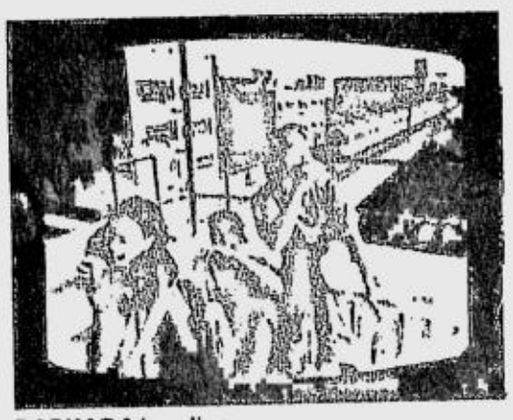
GMA joins the P-B-A page G2

EVEN Donita is a fan

KAMI NA!

COKE like it's never been seen before

STAY slim says sexy Pia Guanio


BARKADA bonding

OOH LA LA

A SET lit like only Sid Maderazo can

THE TONY winner continues to show us what world-class really means

LEA groovin' to her own beat

LIGHTS, camera ... action!

KING Dolphy teaches Prince Sid a few tricks

Advertising's It Boy

Sid Maderazo, because his personal concerns are beer and bed and a pet puppy, is a regular guy, right? Wrong.

By Kage Gozun
Contributor

SCENE 1: The History of Sid Maderazo.

Fade in (wide-angle shot). Educated at the Ateneo de Manila until high school, he moved to the University of the Philippines and majored in Visual Communications at the College of Fine Arts. Two years after graduating and numerous odd jobs later (including selling clothes to boarders and airbrushing murals for restaurants), he landed a position in McCann Erickson as a visualizer for Coca-Cola. Soon he was senior art director, and this is where his story picks up.

He recounts: "Two years ago, a friend from ABS-CBN wanted me to help her brainstorm and storyboard an internal ad for merchandising. I realized that this was the opportunity I needed—so I asked if I could direct it as well. The rest, as they say, is history. I consider that as the turning point of my career in advertising. We are what we are because of the decisions we make. Recognizing a good opportunity is the first step; doing something about it is the sprint towards your goal."

Fade Out.

SCENE 2: Sid on Sid.

Dolly In (mid-shot). One good thing begets another. And after that first brush with commercial directing, Sid was hooked. His bank account was dwindling but his hopes had been given the boost he had sought. He left McCann Erickson—a huge risk that he felt he had to take in order to realize his dreams.

Cut to: Sid's thoughts on the art of directing:

"It takes a lot of guts to be a director. I put my ass on the line with every project. It is difficult to please all the parties involved—the agency, the client, the production house, and of course, myself. Directing is not based on technical skill or creativity alone, but also on people management skills. You have to bring out the best in the people working on the project, from the set man, up to the cinematographer, and that translates from a good working environment, to a job well done. Schedules can be a killer. Its tough enough to do one commercial, but to juggle three to four projects in a month is a very challenging proposition. Time management is paramount to success."

Cut to: Sid's maxims on merging ideas and images.

"Think with the eye, see with the mind. I am a designer by heart, and inspiration is usually visually driven. Everything else follows after I create a visual execution. Some people write down their thoughts; I draw them. I get inspiration from movies, music videos and clips that I constantly download from the net. I have a big library of commercials in my laptop, and I use them for visual references and lighting pegs as well. There are a lot of commercials that I like. But the Bench ad, Sculler's Life, defined a new generation in local advertising."

Cut to: Sid's take on being a Filipino director.

"I see myself as a Pinoy director. I have always believed in local talent, and I want to raise the bar on local industry standards. People would ask me, "hey was that TV ad done abroad?" and it blows them away when I tell them that everything was done locally. We use the same camera, same film stock, same equipment as our foreign counterparts, It is really how we use the technology. *Diskarte lang.*"

Cut to: Sid's personal pet peeve:

"Talents who think they are celebrities and celebrities who think they are so talented."

SCENE 3: Behind the Scenes.

Zoom in (tight shot, lock cam).

Sid wears the title of "Advertising's It Boy" reluctantly. He would rather people knew of his work, not of the man behind it. In an industry that is very service-oriented, where production houses tend to pamper the director, Sid would rather not be at the receiving end of the spoiling. He is, in his mind, a regular guy.

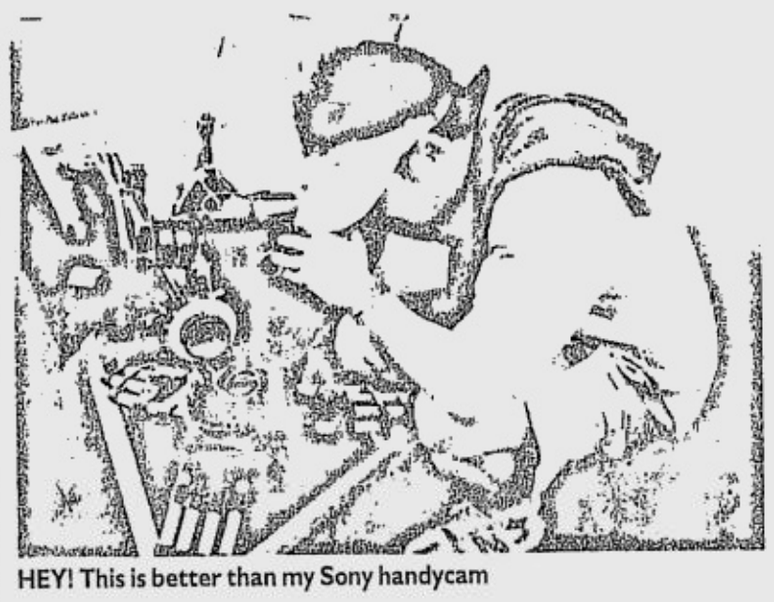
Sid as a regular guy is a product I could buy into. After all, he still gets butterflies in his stomach right before he shouts "action!" He is mortal and yearns for nothing more than a round of beer and his bed after a long day at the set. He experiences the perils of parenting with his new mini-Schnauzer puppy, Ozzy. All the things that human beings go through, in short.

Except that, while our dreams may include going to Europe or losing ten more pounds, Sid's are of being in charge of a local Nike Ad campaign, and of meeting David Fincher (director of "Seven," "Panic Room," "Fight Club")

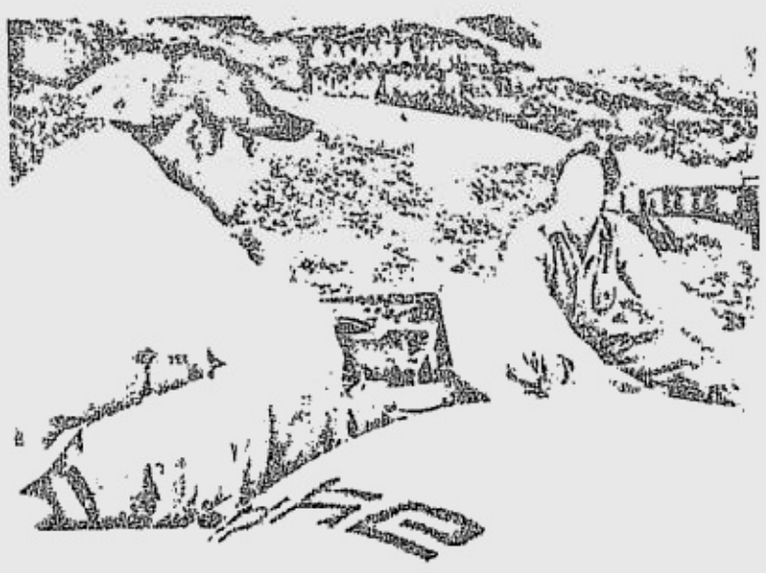
As the rest of us sit at home commenting on the commercials on our television screens, Sid is on a set somewhere reading through his shot list, allowing the line between genius and madness to blur, creating yet another ad to include in his already impressive resume

Zoom Out. Cue music.

Fade to black.


HEY! This is better than my Sony handycam

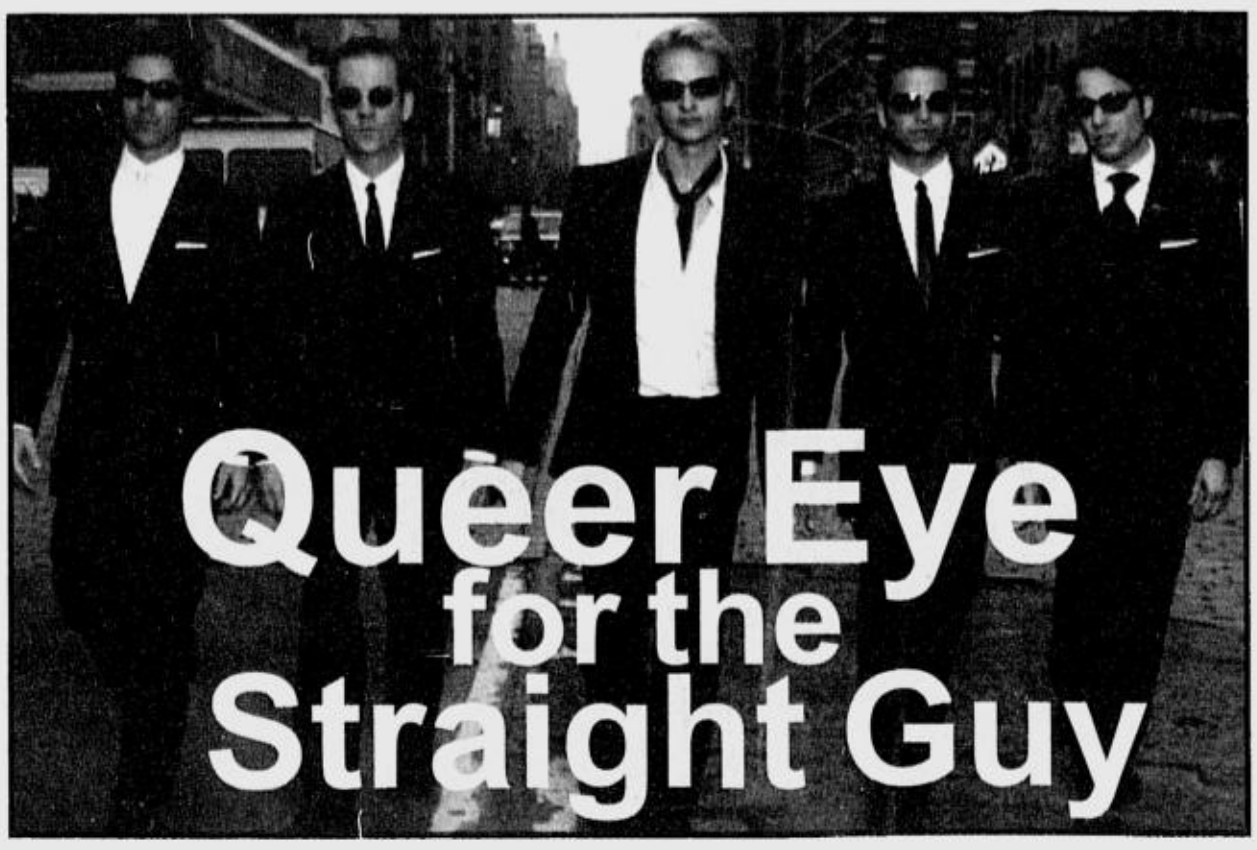
IT'S a tough job but somebody's gotta do it



THE POSSE in action!

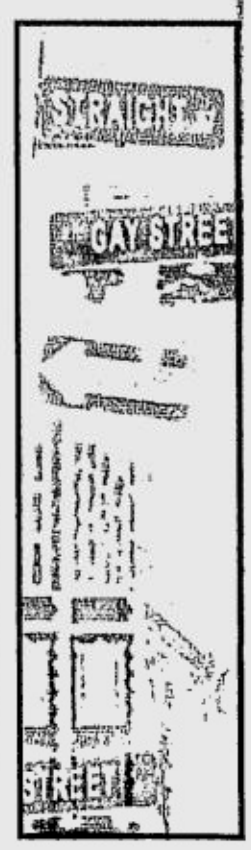
WHO'S the real cutie—Sid or Aga Mulach?

DIREK SID uncharacteristically without his rose-tinted shades



Queer Eye for the Straight Guy

In this show, gay men teach guys what they've known since they were five



By Jay Santos

SO WHY am I writing about an American show that is not likely to be shown on Philippine television anytime soon?

Because through the technology known as file sharing and the miracle of international shipping via the online shopping mall Amazon.com, Filipinos now have access to some of the most edifying foreign productions. And since this series is pretty new and isn't out on DVD yet, start up your Kazaa program and get ready to do some major downloading. This new show is faaaab!

Now, we all know that our lives were meant to be on television. By "we" I mean gay men, the most splendid segment of society. Heck, we run every show! Directors, make-up artists, scriptwriters, talent managers, dancers. It was only a matter of time before we took over American television studios and made shows about our extraordinary lives. And America is lapping it up. They call it gay supremacy. I disagree. It's really just equal representation.

But let's talk about this absolutely fantastic show called "Queer Eye for the Straight Guy" which airs on Bravo (where "Boy Meets Boy," a gay dating game, is also aired). Like "Queer as Folk," that tremendously triumphant series on Showtime which so accurately portrayed the lives of gay men everywhere, "Queer Eye" is also a show where gay men rule. But unlike QAF, a drama series, QE is a reality show.

It stars the Fab5, five gay men out to make the world over, one straight guy at a time. It's such a hilarious and adorable production that I think everyone—I mean anyone who ever saw Oprah doing a makeover on her show, or anyone who is dying for a total overhaul—should watch and memorize.

Sensible stuff

It totally makes sense. It is a known fact that gay men are the only constantly reliable source for tips on sophistication and class. No, that's not written in any high school textbook but it should be. Hello! Martha Stewart groupies are all gay men. And who dresses up the world? Even women in the fashion world are gay. And do we need to ask whom to get a great hairstyle from?

The Fab5 are: Kyan, who's in charge of grooming; Thom, who does interiors; Ted, the food and wine connoisseur; Jai, the culture vulture; and Carson, the fashion savant. They are assigned a clueless straight guy who lives in a disaster of a house or apartment. The Fab5's goal is to give the helpless straight guy a makeover so that he looks better in the eyes of his girlfriend or wife, whom they might ask to move in or marry the subject at the end of the show.

On one episode, the guy's marriage proposal to his girlfriend made me weepy. The show started with the Fab5 invading the straight guy's place, throwing all his tacky furniture out, rummaging through all his sloppy old clothes, and appraising his horrendous grooming habits. Naturally, like became a roller-coaster ride for the guy. He got to shop for new clothes and new pieces for his place, do a spa day, and then come back to a home now fit to be photographed for a magazine.

In short, QE is basically about teaching straight guys stuff that gay men have been doing since they where five—trimming nose hair, working a crowd, lighting a room, avoiding heinous fashion crimes, such as wearing plaids on a date. There are few things more pleasing to girlfriends, wives and mothers than seeing their man make effort to to dress fashionably, make his place presentable, and not shop at K-mart for clothes. And who better to impart this knowledge than us, gay men? We're born with great fashion sense. Or else, as Isaac Mizrahi once said, it shouldn't be surprising that gay men know how to dress well—we've spent a good part of our lives in the closet!

Pinoy version

All right, I know, Filipinos may not be ready for something like this. But I think the landscape of local boob-tube programming is gaining ground (I myself recently hosted an episode of a travel show on local cable with my ex-boyfriend). Take for example the two gay guys who just won "Amazing Race." Although it's a shame that AXN deleted the scene where Reichen and Chip kiss when they won, and MTV Philippines didn't show Madonna, Britney and Christina sucking face at the last Video Music Awards, I'm sure it's just a matter of time before a local version of QE or, here's hoping, QAF hits Pinoy smallscreens.

So if anyone from the two major local television channels are reading this, stop insulting the Filipino intelligence with tacky telenovelas, cheesy sitcoms, and shady creatures on noontime shows. We are starving for shows with brains and sophisticated humor.

The local QE show should include Rajo Laurel, for fashion, JR Isaac for grooming, Miguel Rosales for interiors, Colin Mackay for food and wine, and Tim Yap for culture. Who's gonna be your straight clueless guy? Just open your front door; they're everywhere.

Cheers, queers!

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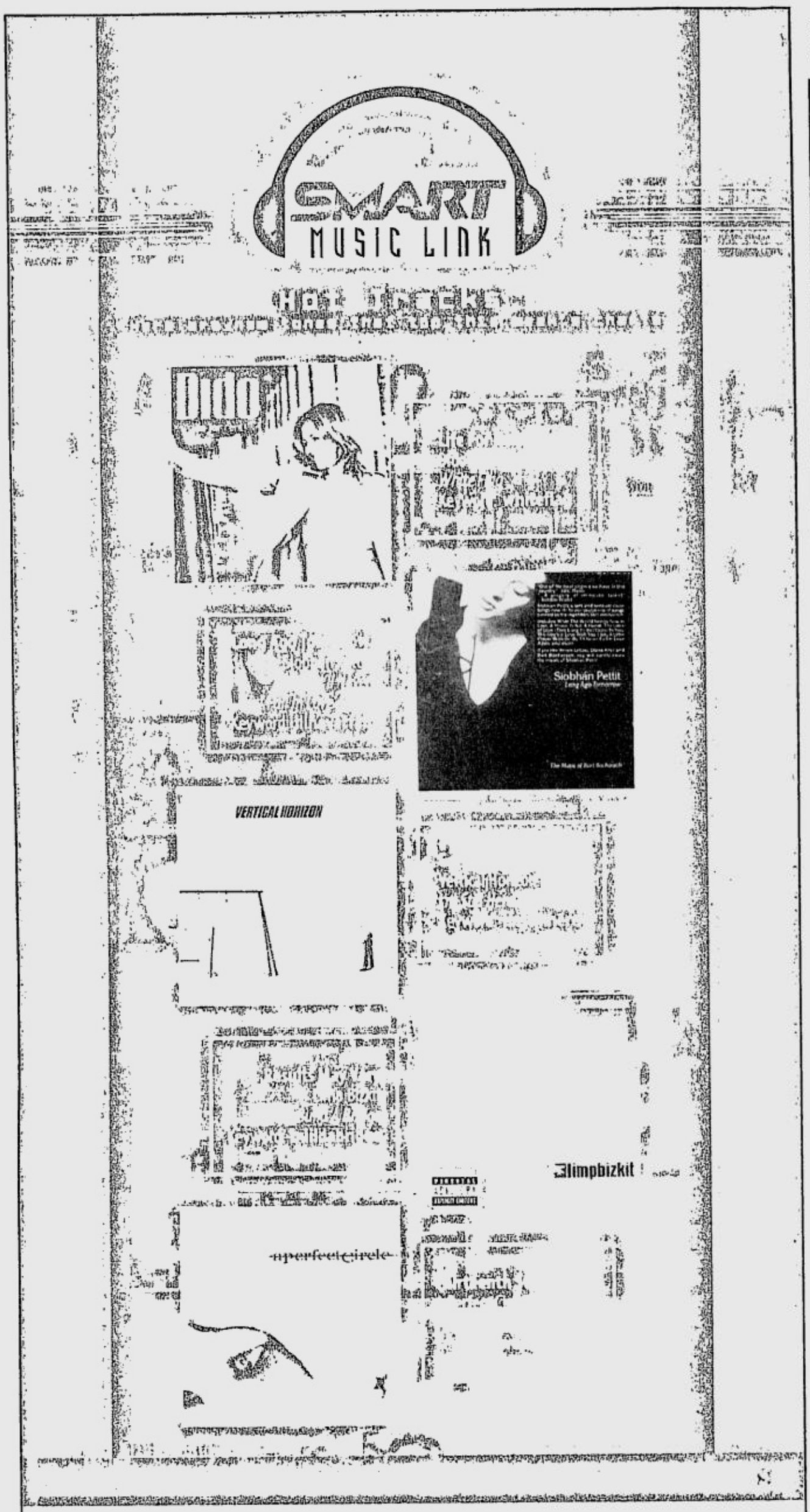

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Top 25 Albums of the Week

1	Michael Bublé Michael Bublé	9	Bigotilyo Parokya Ni Edgar	18	The Piano Player Maksin
2	Playlist Jadd Santi	10	Metamorphosis Hilary Duff	19	Fantasy 4ever F4
3	Nyoy Volante with Mannos Nyoy Volante	11	Chasing Time II Martin Nievera	20	In Concert Josh Groban
4	Acoustic Night Live Various Artist keyword	12	Heaven Nina	21	Dans Mon Ile Lisa Ono
5	Heavier Things John Mayer	13	Forward John Frones	22	Bling Bling Various Artists keyword:
6	Life For Rent Dido keyword	14	Dangerously In Love Beyoncé Knowles	23	Results May Vary Limp Bizkit keyword:
7	A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic Various Artists	15	Sacred Love Sting keyword:	24	Josh Groban Josh Groban
8	Popstar: A Dream Come True Sarah Geronimo	16	Long Ago Tomorrow Siobhan Pettit keyword:	25	Go vertical Horizon keyword:
		17	Thirteenth Step A Perfect Circle keyword:		

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MUSIC LINK

Today is your birthday!

By Tim Yap

WE ALL wish that everyday was our birthday, when we get that extra-special, warm and fuzzy feeling that comes from being ...spoiled.

This is the exact feeling that seasoned events host and basketball anchor Shaan Bermudez—soon to be married to heart-throb cager Vince Hizon—wants underprivileged kids to feel. Through her group, "Everyday is your Birthday" Foundation, she encourages people from all walks of life to spend some time with kids—to make them feel ...loved.

Last month, to celebrate her own birthday, she gathered over a hundred people—celebrities, basketball stars and friends from the media—to partake of a special treat with 300 orphans and street kids.

With people like Shaan around, the sun will indeed come out, tomorrow.

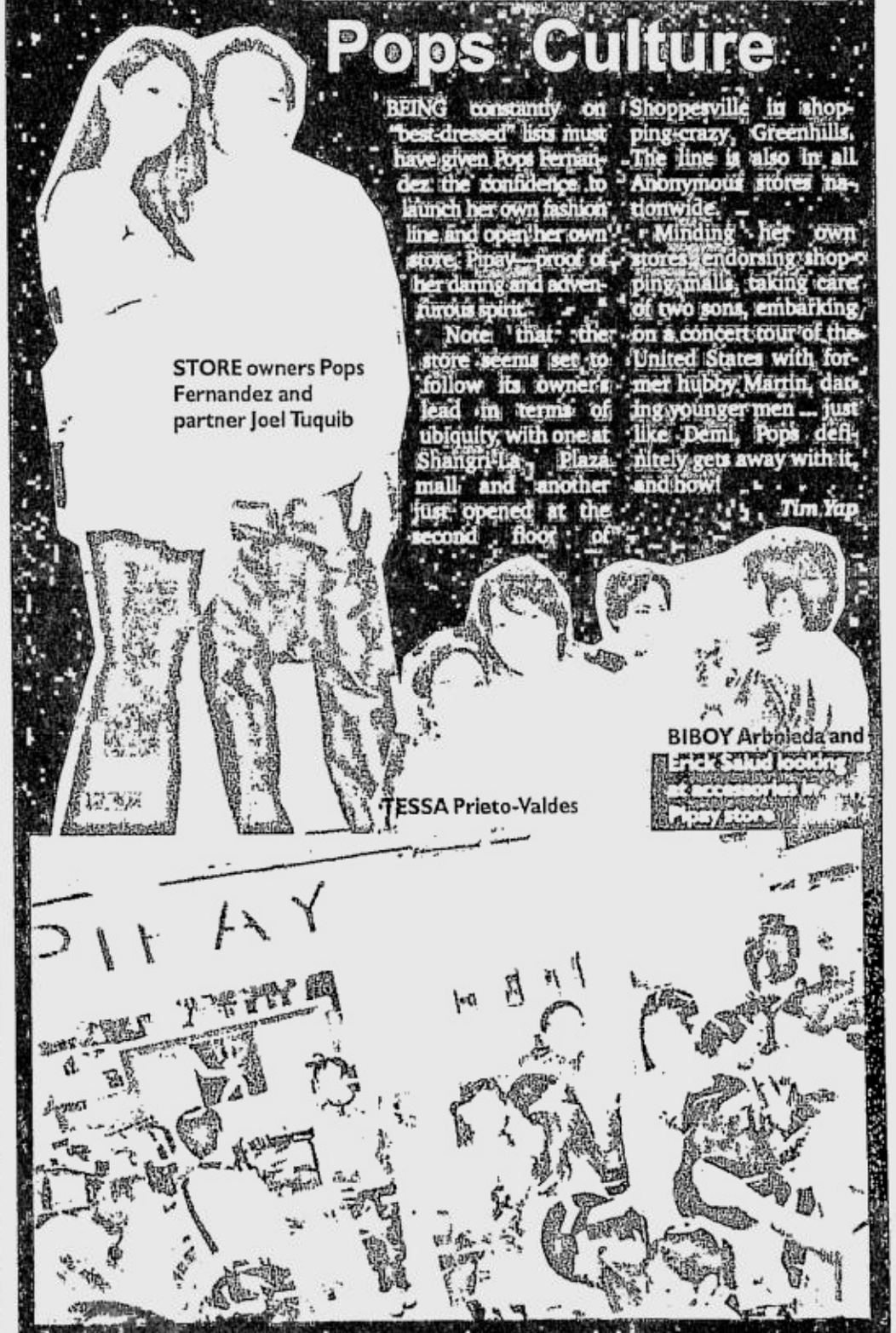
Pops Culture

BEING constantly on "best-dressed" lists must have given Pops Fernandez the confidence to launch her own fashion line and open her own store: Pupay—proof of her daring and adventurous spirit.

Note that the store seems set to follow its owner's lead in terms of ubiquity with one at Shangri-La Plaza mall and another just opened at the second floor of Shoppesville in shopping-crazy, Greenhills. The line is also in all Anonymous stores nationwide.

Minding her own stores, endorsing shopping malls, taking care of two sons, embarking on a concert tour of the United States with former hubby Martin, dancing younger men ... just like Demi, Pops definitely gets away with it, and how!

Tim Yap



Oh yes, it's Johnnie!

YOU think only old foggies drink scotch? Think again.

In the small town of Kilmarnock, Scotland, a young boy decides to use his tea-blending skills to mix something else: whisky. The idea soon became an obsession—not to mention that he got drunk almost every night.

He was John Walker. He is dead now, but his blend is still the world's most popular scotch, and his name lives on.

To celebrate good times, Johnnie Walker hosted cocktails for a few good men at Cafe Havana in Greenbelt. Highlight was the launch of Entrepreneur mag's Entrepereneur 10 Awards—a search for outstanding young men who are living the life.

So guys, keep on walking: you have arrived.

Tim Yap

EVENTSGUIDE

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11:
NUVO: Electrolounge with Scrambled Edge and Don Renato
ACQUARIO: Dance on water with Patch & Erwin Edralin (deep & funky house) open bar from 10-12 PM
RESTAURANT 12: The Lost Classics (Nostalgia without the Cheese) with Adrian Cuenca
DREAMBAR: Circo Loco with Manolet Dario (progressive house) and percussionist Fritz Barth
WHERELSE?: R&B and Hip Hop
TIANENMEN BAR AND RESTO: Couch Culture by Couch Lab (Chill Out, Balearic)
WASABI: Mousee—New Wave anthems
OLIVE: The Boiler Room with Nicky Jurado (Hard Dance), Owens Sun (Progressive house) and Myk Tolentino (Progressive, tech-house)

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14:
TEMPLE: Goodlife Tuesdays with Steve Mills & Paolo Cabalfin (r&b)

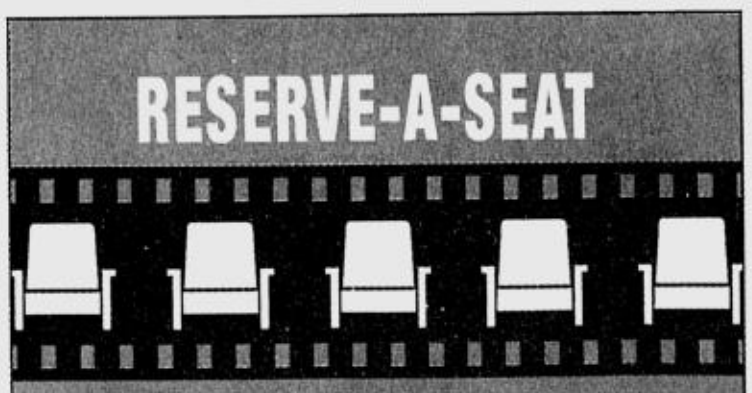
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15:
ABSINTH: Smooth Wednesdays with Steve Mills (r&b, hip hop)
BED, Malate: Hump Night with Kevin Ruiz (New York Tribal House) plus Cocoy Puyat and Travis Monsod
IL PONTICELLO: Community with Wendell Garcia (deep, funky, sexy house) and guest DJs.
TEMPLE: Faith with Manolet Dario & Raji Mata (progressive house)
FLUTE: Johnny Walker presents: Walk on the House Side with DJ Patch (funky house)
OLIVE: Syrup with Lester Castillo (r&b) & guest DJs

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16:
ABSINTH: Electrodisco with Carlo Ching and Bong Garcia
V BAR: Electrobrasil with Scrambled Edge and Joe Henson
TEMPLE: Divine Playground with Kevin Ruiz (progressive, New York tribal house)
OLIVE: Freeflow with Myk Tolentino & guest DJs

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17:
RESTAURANT 12: The Blue Room Twilight CD Launch with Wendell Garcia (sexy, deep house and lounge)
IL PONTICELLO: L8R after-hours (Saturday Morning 12AM) with Kevin Ruiz (progressive, New York tribal house)
ABSINTH: Le-Funk with Patch and Erwin Edralin (funky house)
DREAMBAR: Decadance with Boyet Almazan ('80s and '90s)
WASABI: Vibe Fridays with Steve Mills (R&B)
ACQUARIO: Acquaboy with Erwin Edralin (Deep & funky house).
TIANANMEN BAR & RESTO: Couch Culture by Couch Lab (Chill Out, Balearic)
OLIVE: Essential (house music all night long) with Anthony Kierulf, Jay Tengco and Jon & Marc Naval.

For your gigs to be published email adrian@djconspiracy.com by Wednesday afternoon.

RESERVE-A-SEAT



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for SM Megamall Cinema 1

SM CINEMA

Malnutrition among Senior Citizens

Caregiving and the Gift of Love

3rd of 5 parts

Taking care of ageing parents or grandparents can, at first, be a daunting task. You become their source of comfort, relief, strength and assurance. Taking that extra mile to take care of them is a gift of love -- possibly the best way to show your love to them.

The following are a few more "gift" ideas that provide seniors enormous physical and emotional benefits that make "care giving" exceptionally rewarding.

A Massage Says a Lot

Ageing can cause anxiety and stress in most seniors. A healthy and caring touch like a massage effectively alleviates emotional and psychological effects of ageing that compromise the appetite and eating habits of your loved ones.

Simple, gentle strokes on the hands, feet and face can be very comforting. Ask your physician if there are any contraindications to giving Lolo or Lola a massage.

Physical Benefits

- Enhances tissue elasticity and flexibility
- Increases range of motion in joints
- Relaxes tight muscles
- Relieves muscle aches and stiffness
- Relieves cramps and muscle spasms
- Improves circulation of blood
- Improves immune system functioning
- Improves energy flow
- Improves posture
- Reduces tension headaches
- Promotes well nourished, healthy skin

Psychological Benefits

- Enhances general relaxation
- Reduces anxiety and mental stress
- Improves sleep
- Increases feelings of well-being
- Calms a bad temper
- Improves concentration
- Enhances self-image

Music, Maestro!

Music plays a significant role in improving the general well being of Papa or Mama. Set aside time for them to listen to classical music or to their favorite old classic tunes. Research results have showed that music reduces stress and anxiety, even depression. Remember that an improved emotional state can have positive effects on their attitude towards eating.

The Chef in You

- Add extracts and spices to food to make its smell and taste stronger.
- Prepare food of varying textures, colors and temperatures.
- Make sure food is rich in calories if the objective is to achieve ideal weight.
- Eat out once a week. A change in venue helps revive appetite.
- Load familiar dishes with calories by creating "concentrated" versions.

Consult a registered dietician about these alternative preparations.

Your gift of love can mean taking that extra mile. And it's just a way of showing Lolo and Lola your love for them.

Go that extra mile and consult a doctor about Ensure - the complete and balanced oral meal replacement. And give Lolo and Lola the Gift of Love.

RAFFLE PROMO:

- Use your MasterCard at any SM Department Store or SM Mall and for a minimum purchase of P1,000 get a chance to win in three monthly raffle draws.
- Win P100,000 in each monthly draw or double it up to P200,000 if your MasterCard purchase is from an SM Department Store.
- To join the monthly draws, call the MasterCard Promo IVRS-Hotline numbers or email us the name of cardholder, card number, transaction amount and transaction date.
  - For Metro Manila MasterCard cardholders, call: 689-1000 (PLDT) & 914-11-00 (GLOBE)
  - For provincial MasterCard cardholders, call: 1-800-10-7-250-000
  - or
  - Email your entries to info@1isa.com

DICE AND DARTBOARD GAMES:
(For Luzon purchases only)

- Every minimum purchase of P1,000 entitles you to one Dice or Dartboard Game for a chance to win MasterCard premium Christmas collectibles and SM Skating and Bowling tickets.
- MasterCard Game Booths can be found only at SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM Centerpoint, SM North Edsa, SM Makati Department Store and The Podium.

So Hurry! Over P3 million worth of cash credits and instant prizes may be won. Use your MasterCard and start your Christmas shopping this October at SM and let the Twelve Weeks of Christmas countdown begin.

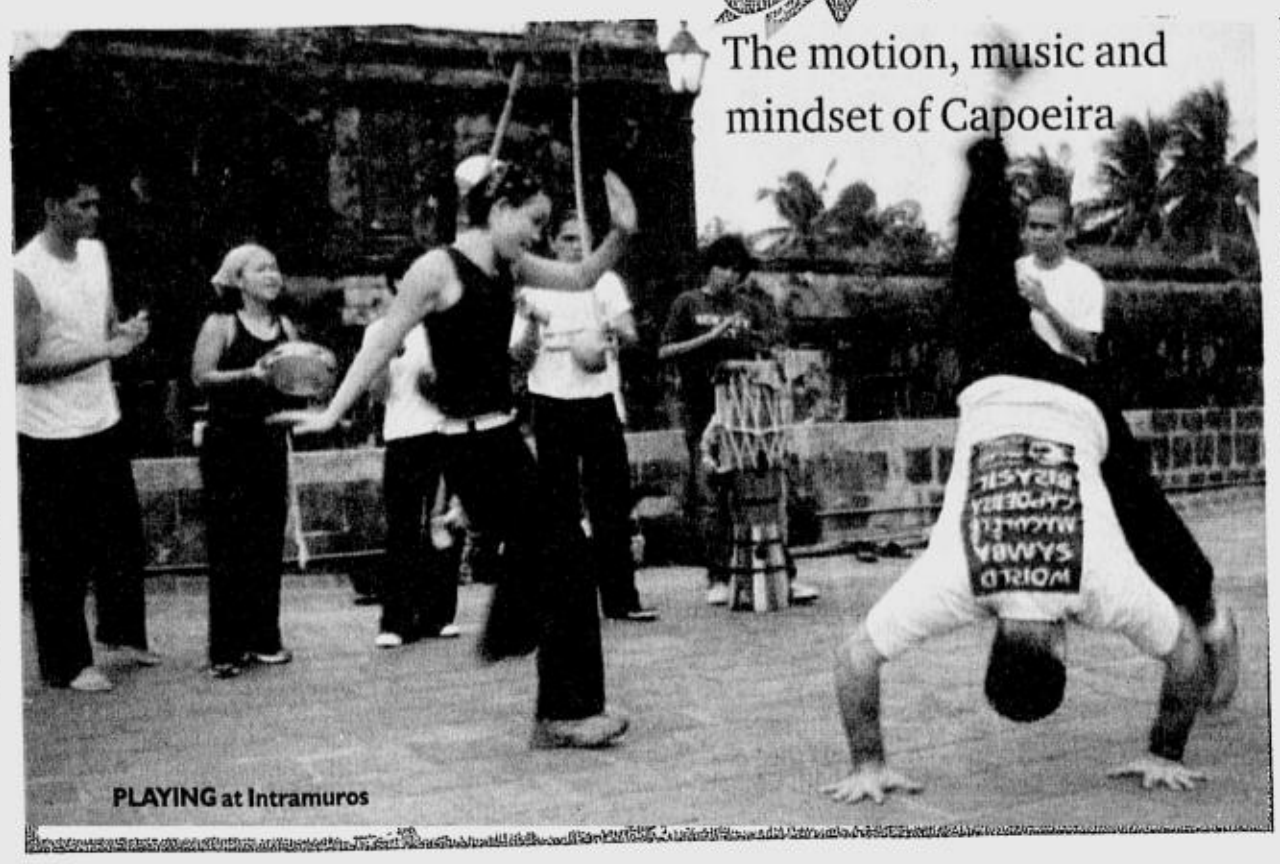
- Promo excludes SM Supermarkets and SM Hypermart
- Promo runs from October 10, 2003 to January 4, 2004 only.

SM SUPERMALLS

Per DTI-NCR Permit No 2915 Series of 2003

Free to Play

The motion, music and mindset of Capoeira



PLAYING at Intramuros

MY OWN mother thinks I've been stricken with a strange, nameless affliction. The bizarre symptoms are quite noticeable. Many times during the day, I'd be standing on my head or be doing cartwheels whenever I'd find open spaces. Every time I drop something, like my ballpen, I'd feel the urge to make the sign of the cross and touch the floor. And there's the curious habit of singing songs in another language, in Portuguese in fact, while playing an imaginary instrument with my hands and fingers. When my mom finally asked me, rather nicely, if I was losing my mind or if I had joined some underground cult, I decided to let her in on my little secret: I have been practicing Capoeira.

Tals Diaz

"Cap-what?"

It's Capoeira (say "ka-pwe-rah"). Otherwise known as my newfound passion and addiction, the sole reason I get through the week (apart from "That '70s Show" on cable TV), and why I have made it my mission to make it to Brazil someday to do spinning kicks with other people on some beautiful coastline.

Brazilian martial art

Capoeira is a Brazilian martial art form that fuses graceful motion, powerful acrobatic executions, mesmerizing tribal music and a deep philosophy of honor and respect for life. You may not know it, but there's a big chance that you have already caught glimpses of Capoeira in the pop culture horizon, especially if you've seen the latest Ricky Martin video, played the character Eddy in Tekken 3, seen some of the Nike ads, or marveled at Marc Dacascos' fluid acrobatic displays in the 1994 B-movie "Only the Strong." Also, if you chance upon the latest Del Monte 202 TV commercial on primetime, you'll get a sampler of Capoeira towards the end, with the playful, high-flying figures in white delivering some kickass aerial displays.

Slave Roots

Yet more than just an über cool dance-fight that's pretty to watch, Capoeira has a unique history that spans over 400 years, tracing back to the times of slavery in colonial Brazil. Though its exact origins are still a point of contention for many historians and practitioners, Capoeira is generally believed to have been practiced originally by African slaves forced into Brazil in the 15th and 16th centuries by Portuguese colonizers. When the Dutch came between 1624 and 1630, many slaves escaped and sought refuge in nearby forests where they formed communities similar to African tribes. Eventually, the Dutch were expelled from Brazil and the old masters sought to recapture their old slaves.

To defend themselves against the masters' weapons and arms, as well as against rival factions, the slaves developed a fierce fighting form using their hands and feet. And to hide the fact that they were training to fight, the slaves had to disguise it as a ritualistic dance. Onlookers in a circle would clap their hands and sing songs of freedom and happier times to the beat of drums and to the rhythm of the *berimbau*, a one-stringed, bow-like instrument.

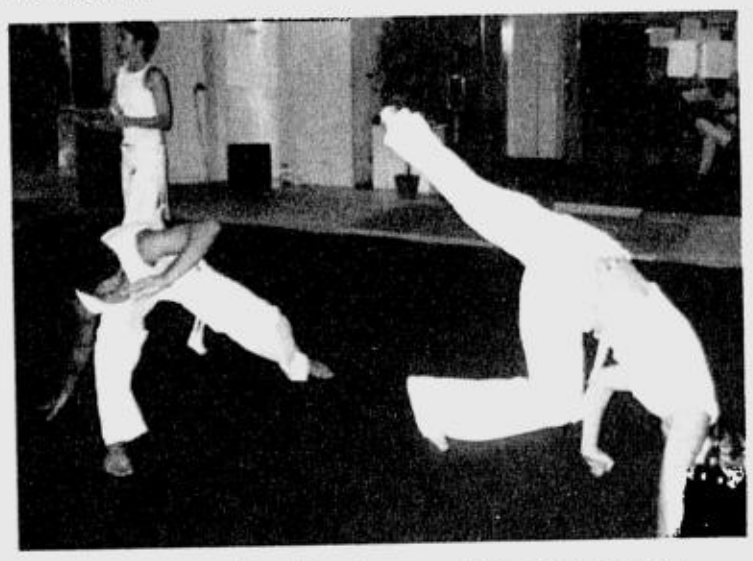
Slavery was eventually abolished, yet many continued the practice even as they flowed into the cities and towns. In 1890, the Brazilian government clamped down on Capoeira, believing it to be a threat to law and order. It remained outlawed until the mid 1930s when, largely through the help of Mestre Bimba, it was legitimized and in fact declared a national sport.

Capoeira today

Today, Capoeira is a sport, a dance, a game and, most important, a celebration of freedom. It remains faithful to the ritualistic aspect of music—chants and ethnic instruments establishing the pace are integral to the art.

The musicians play at the head of a circle known as "roda," while two Capoeiristas in the center "play" (or basically spar) in a game where the object is to not hit your opponent. Rather, the point is to enrich the other player through a sharing of movement. The result is a free-flowing, energy-packed exhibition of yin and yang.

FIGHT-dance



THIS Brazilian martial art form fuses graceful motion, powerful acrobatic executions, mesmerizing tribal music and a deep philosophy of honor and respect for life.

I can't express my mad enthusiasm for Capoeira without sounding like a version of that ubiquitous mobile phone ad: "I am a Capoeira addict." About six months ago, the very first official Capoeira school was founded in Metro Manila: Escola Brasileira de Capoeira Philippines (or EBC Philippines). The school is an authentic chapter of the renowned school in the Brazilian capital of Brasilia, headed by Mestre Oscar. Here in Manila, I train under a Brazilian teacher, Professor Batata.

After so many years of dabbling in other martial art forms like t'ai chi and kickboxing, I feel that I have found the fighting style that I was born to do. My fascination goes far beyond the fancy moves, high kicks and acrobatic flips. The faithfulness to tradition and rituals is something I'm totally enamored with.

For one, before I play in the circle with a fellow Capoeirista, we first crouch close to the ground to touch it and ask for God's blessing and protection, and then make the sign of the cross. Once inside the circle, I truly feel the collective energy or "axé" of the people around me. A big part of it is the life-affirming, rhythmic music of the ethnic instruments being played while my fellow Capoeiristas in the circle chant traditional songs with a distinct African tribal vibe.

The roda for me is a representation of life itself. Within the sacred, unbroken circle, I come to grasp the values espoused by the art. Essentially, in order to create a beautiful game, one must respect oneself and one's opponent. In the circle, I learn to strategize and deal with the challenges and contradictions of life. It's not just a matter of delivering fantastic moves and awesome kicks to stupefy your partner and the audience; both players should learn to read the other to figure out the best way to express themselves. This is where a sharp and focused mind comes to play.

Journey to Freedom

Most of all, what endears me to Capoeira is the feeling that I'm on some journey to a rainbow's end of blissful freedom.

One Sunday a few weeks ago, our group held a street performance along the historical walls of Intramuros. There, in the very symbol the oppression of the Filipino people by Spanish colonizers, we sang and played with no concept of limits in our minds and movements. I never would have thought in the past that I'd ever perform like a circus monkey on speed (well at least not in public), but the energy is just so damn infectious. Freedom can indeed be intoxicating, so who can blame anyone for thinking I'm a bit crazy at times?

(email the author: inca_orange@yahoo.com and, if you're curious about Capoeira, email EBC Philippines: ebcphilippines@yahoo.com)

I love Lego

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

EVERYTHING we do nowadays resembles channel surfing, so sitting through an entire film can be quite a refreshing and informative experience. I had the chance to do just that when I finally unsealed a DVD that I had bought three months ago. It was the special edition of "Monty Python and the Holy Grail."

Unlike a normal Medieval History course, this gourmet comedy from 1975 presents the legend of King Arthur through a string of inspired gags. Maybe due to the British accent, everything in this movie sounds more important than it perhaps should. I mean, certain scenes involve three-headed knights and killer rabbits!

Now I know how other Python side projects like "Fawlty Towers" achieved cult status. Terry Gilliam, John Cleese and Michael Palin took comedy from the street and shot it up to the stars. In Disc Two, for example, animated Lego knights take a Camelot scene straight into the realm of high art. With the exception of Michel Gondry's groundbreaking video for the White Stripes' "Fell In Love With A Girl," I had never seen such a brilliant use for Lego.

This is not to say that Lego isn't cool and functional on its own. As a kid, I shaped visions of a fantastic future with those Technicolor plastic blocks from Denmark. I constructed high-rise apartment buildings that rivaled the creepiness of Gaudi's Sagrada Familia. I remember tossing these in our pool to create—what else?—Atlantis.

In Legoland, I was free to draft my own urban development plan and be my very own Donald Trump. This emphasis on self-exploration over obedience, on learning through playing, either made me a radioactive genius or a demented tyrant. Whatever the case may be, I can't say the same for kids weaned on Tekken.

Big league

I never thought that such a crude toy as Lego would hit the big league. To be honest, I thought time would turn it into an unloved artifact, like shoulder pads or Michael Jackson. Boy, was I wrong. On Lego.com, the manufacturer's official website, I spotted Lego Mini-me's of Harry Potter, Spiderman, and those pious bores from "Star Wars."

I clicked on the "Shop" button and became lock-jawed when I found a "Lego Island Xtreme Sports" section, with a skateboarder who looks eerily like Bam Margera. It could be him, or one of the other "Jackass" jackasses.

On that note, I can't wait for Legoland to go beyond its ethnically homogenous population, which right now possesses the skin tone of the Simpsons.

EVEN Avril would like this Skater Boi

POTTERMANIA has reached Legoland

Lego versions of Bernie Mac, Jackie Chan, or any of the Brazilian Sports Illustrated models would probably blast right off the shelves.

After Googling around some more, I discovered that certain people had been funneling their passion for Lego into filmmaking. Brickfilms.com is a "community dedicated to the art of stop-motion animation." According to the home page, these enthusiasts focus mainly on breathing life into "plastic building toys." (I wonder if they've ever worked with Anna Nicole Smith.)

Lego slaves e-mail their short films to the site and each one is judged on animation, cinematography, effects, sound, story and, of course, fun. My absolute favorite is called "The War on Iraq," but I won't spoil it for you. Let's just say the acting's so top-shelf that I can't tell the Lego Dubya from the real one. What can I say? This website is hands-down obscure but thoroughly educational.

An extended hobby

I'm stoked that the Lego spirit of creativity and commerce has bridged the immense gulf between youth and adulthood. Among other things, life should be an extended hobby and playtime is a huge part of that. What I took from a childhood surrounded by buckets of these building blocks goes beyond nostalgia. It's this: When you do it just right, you can elevate normal fun to upscale self-expression. After all, Lego's motto is, "Play on."

GMA joins the P-B-A

SWAK!

by Lex

That's Politics, Basketball,and Artistas-the three top national obssessions

OUR country has always been obsessed with the P-B-A.

That's Politics, Basketball, and Artistas.

The rich, the poor, and everyone in between, spend most of their waking hours discussing either one of these three national fixations.

Politics

NEWSFLASH! The best-kept secret in our country's history has finally been revealed: GMA *IS* RUNNING. Unanimous clamor by all sectors of society has made our President rise to the challenge. We should all be so proud!

The peso is steadily crumbling, peace and order sucks, and business groups are giving our Prez the thumbs down. Yet, her camp has somehow heard an unprecedented call for our incumbent to run. Where the clamor came from, I'm not so sure. Maybe they misheard the masses' chants, "Run away, Gloria, run away!"

I think the most important criterion for a leader is honesty. In December, when Ms Macapagal announced she would definitely not seek reelection, I believed her because I was overly optimistic that there were still some politicians out there whose word was their bond. Unfortunately, we were all just taken for a ride. In the end it was like a telenovela, where the goal of every *eksena* was to play with the emotions (and the future) of our people.

Former Sen. Heherson Alvarez even went to the extent of saying that the December proclamation was just a "political strategy." Tagalog translation: *"Ay, akala niyo ba totoo 'yun? Sori ha...Joke lang!"*

B-Ball

You gotta love the fact that basketball is our national sport, even if the average Filipino male's height is 5'4".

This mania was never more apparent than during the last Ateneo-La Salle bout. It was comical that both benches had players on their knees, clutching rosaries and begging God for a win while their teammates were trying to tear off their opponent's heads on-court. I wonder what the Big J (Jesus, not Jaworski) would have to say about that?

Naturally the winners will always attribute victory to God. You know what?! I really don't think that God, with all the problems in the universe, gives a damn about who wins at basketball.

Artistas

I'm sick and tired of people talking about Kris and Joey (a P-B-A expert himself, having gone from basketball player to *artista* to mayor). Don't we have better things to worry about than these two deviants?

Yes, Joey had absolutely no right to point a gun at Kris or give Kris a STD, presuming that these allegations were true. However, this domestic squabble shouldn't have been given all that media space and time.

Besides, after dragging the entire nation into her melodrama and being hailed as a heroine, Kris dropped the charges! Cheating men everywhere, listen up: after giving your partners a STD and threatening them with guns, if you wanna avoid jail all you have to do is apologize on primetime television.

The "campaign" pictures of GMA that made the front pages of all major dailies in the last six months have been a constant source of amusement for me. Her photograph at the Jesus Is Lord rally with one hand on her heart and the other raised to the heavens, eyes closed in the rapture of prayer and earnestly singing praise to a higher power, was my favorite. Obviously, our Prez is also an *artista* inside. If only those growth pills they sell via infomercials really work, she may yet pick up basketball and use this to win in the election, because that's the only ingredient she needs to master the tenets of the P-B-A!

(For comments e-mail: swak@info.com.ph)

DJs manolet dario & Nicky jurado @Filling station

TINA TASTES

by Tina Pamintuan

IT'S three in the morning in the P. Burgos area of Makati. With bright neon lights flashing overhead, the streets are packed with foreigners, young girls, vendors and taxicabs.

Famished from a long night of drinking and dancing, my makeup smeared, tired feet in high heels, micro mini skirt and halter top ... no, I am not a prostitute ... I find myself sitting in a 24-hour diner with two male creatures of the night. This is Filling Station, my favorite after-hours place, and they are No. 1 deejay Manolet Dario and fellow notorious deejay Nicky Jurado, owner of the controversial and more-than-just-popular club, Olive (formerly Orange).

In the hustle and bustle of this new "red-light district," I find sanctuary and entertainment in one of FS' very comfortable, red-cushioned booths. It's clean and quiet, and the staff is attentive, alert, friendly and accomodating. And sporting tiny—as in hardly-there—uniforms. I was especially impressed by our server Noel.

One can choose to sit by the window and witness how the people outside transact their businesses, or just enjoy watching the human traffic inside. Or merely mind all the effort that went into the décor—old telephones, a jukebox, posters of Elvis, Marilyn Monroe and old Hollywood legends, and mock setup of a 1940's gas station.

We had a field day taking snapshots. Mano and Nicky are two of the happiest, most down-to-earth, and most playful people I know.

These guys are the reason I learned how to spin/mix cd's back in 1998. Everybody has since wanted to be a deejay.

Now everybody thinks he can be a deejay. Worse, some prematurely call themselves deejays. Excuse me? If I could learn to mix, just about anyone can. That doesn't mean we can all quit our day jobs like these two guys once did.

"It's not an easy life," they both say. Imagine days that start at midnight, irregular hours, zero financial security, fast-changing trends, faster-changing people ...

But at the end of the day, they agree, what should count is, if you have a passion for something you believe in, enough drive and persistence to achieve your goal (not money), you should go for it.

Meanwhile, what do deejays dine on, I mean after a long night and before sleeping (obviously this is not a very healthy lifestyle)?

Nicky does not like to eat when he drinks (alcohol). But if he must have something, it would be ice cream. If you're thinking what I'm thinking ... apparently he has a very strong stomach. And so we order an ice cream milk shake. It comes in a tall glass—creamy, luscious, sinful, incredible. Life is good.

Even Mano, the health buff, says he also takes supplement shakes and works out regularly.

But of all the things that we order, *chicharon bulaklak* turns out to be the best. We ask for another serving after finishing off four other dishes. I know of no other place that makes this sinful treat taste healthy: not a drop of oil, crisp, thin and crunchy. Who am I kidding?

Definitely worth the wait, the seafood chowder, served in a perfectly shaped sourdough, is a remedy to any malady (hmm), including a hangover, stomach cramps, or a bad mood. It's smokin' hot and rich, with chunks of shrimp, fish, celery and carrots.

One of the best things about being Pinoy and eating after hours is having breakfast any time of day: garlic fried rice, tapa, eggs ... Nicky says, "Imagine a world without eggs: no Peking duck." I say, "You mean a world without birds." Nicky retorts, "E, where did the bird come from?" This conversation is finished.

On to the corned beef hash.

If you ever decide to take my word for it, I have a few precious tips for when you come to this joint. Be careful not to stare too long at any odd creature; it's rude. Mind your own business; it's enough to just enjoy the food 'coz it's great. Savor every flavor and every moment; before you know it, the sun will be up. And vampires like us will have to hurry back to our coffins for some beauty rest.

What: Filling Station
Where: 5012 P. Burgos St., Makati
When: 24 hours
How much: P250 to P400 per head
Contact: 8972053-58

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PHILIPS

MTV WHATEVER THINGS!

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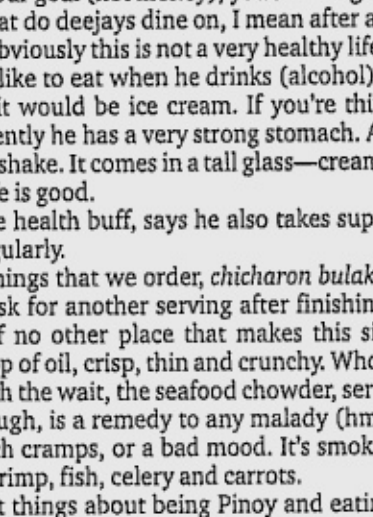

TIM YAP

MTV's newest face Mark Abaya

MTV wants you!

MTV is known for its popular veejay hunts. But this month, MTV is hunting two other "hunts":

Hunt No.1: Do you have drop-dead model looks—hot body, gorgeous smile, the works? MTV wants you! The 2003 MTV Fashionista Best Model Search is on its third year. Last year's winner Gilamarie was named Best Model in the World's Best Asian Model competition. Another winner, Bim, walked away with the Best Model of the World title in the Prince Model of the World search.

Who can join?
Gender: Male or female.
Age: 18 to 25.
Height: 5'6" for females, 5'9" for males.
Modeling experience scores extra cookie points.

Finals night is on Nov. 17, at the NBC Tent, Fort Bonifacio. For details, call Saga Events, 725-8252, 723-3087; or MTV Philippines, 889-9251.

Hunt No. 2: For the coolest drum-and-bugle corps in town. Competition is open to all high schools and colleges in Manila. Grand prize is P150,000 in cash.

Applicants should be composed of 25 members (male, female, whatever). Send profiles to MTV Philippines (Unit C For Entertainment Centre, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig).

Other requirements: Clear demo tape containing at least two numbers from the band's playlist.

Meanwhile, if you're "hunting" for great shows, check out MTV's great lineup for the month: KC Concepcion's "KC in Da House," and features on local Hip-hopdom's new prince, Jay-it, and Lokal Artist of the Month, Rivermaya. Also tune in to the premiere of Blue's new video, "Guilty" on Oct. 18.

Hi, I'm Mark San Diego.
Call me Mark.
I love to play with all my new friends here.
They say I look like Piolo Pascual.
E-mail me at
nemesis_ph@yahoo.com

Hi, I'm Joy.
Call me Joy 2 the world.
I love playing with my hair.
They say I look Giselle Tongi or Chin-Chin Gutierrez.
E-mail me at blahzay@aol.com and paradisobella@yahoo.com.

Hi, I'm Paolo Cabalfin.
Call me Paolo.
I love to play with a basketball, gym equipment and women.
They say I look like Tyson Beckford and Vin Diesel.
E-mail me at
paolocabalfin@hotmail.com.

Hi, I'm Lani.
Call me Lana.
I love playing with my clothes when I go shopping.
They say I look like Lana Lang from Smallville.
E-mail me at
www.nicetrybuddy.com.

Hi, I'm Paul Guasque.
You can call me Peewee.
I love to play with my cat ... as well as you know, sexy girls. You know what game I'm talking about.
They say I look like Leonardo Di Caprio.
E-mail me at
paulguasque@yahoo.com

Hi, I'm Jaymee.
You can call me jaymeebabe (as in "Babe" the pig!)
I love playing with my hair and my ... hmmm...
They say I look like Tetchie Agbayani (*pag nakatalikod*, hahaha!)
E-mail me at
catwalk_queen@mailcity.com

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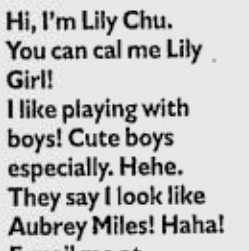
Text and photos by Tim Yap

OUR radar took us to Temple bar on a Tuesday night where scenesters were raising the roof to DJ Steve Mills' R&B beats. Here, Super! worked the dancefloor and picked up the goods.

You choose.

Hi, I'm Lily Chu.
You can cal me Lily Girl!
I like playing with boys! Cute boys especially. Hehe.
They say I look like Aubrey Miles! Haha!
E-mail me at
grl_fr_ipanema
@yahoo.com

Hi, I'm Margie Licardo.
Call me
_____.
I love to play with myself.
They say I look like Nicolette Bell.
E-mail me at
marj_licardo
@yahoo.com.



Hi, I'm Margauxh Nalus.
You call me Teacher Margauxh.
I like playing with water and balls and kids.
They say I look like Nina Ricci Alagao (feeling beauty and brains, hehe!).
E-mail me at
teacher_margauxh
@yahoo.com

Hi, I'm Andrea Saw.
You can call me Andy. (I'm a girl, not gay!)
I love to play with boys and girls ... I mean, kids.
They say I look like some Chinese pop star.
E-mail me at
andrea_aks
@yahoo.com

Hi, I'm Keanu Jarel Korber.
Call me Kean.
I love to play with my basketball.
They say I look like Carlos Morales, Robbie Williams.
E-mail me at
keanugasperlmair
@yahoo.com

SATURDAY special

PALTROW. A different place without dad.

Gwyneth Paltrow says it's harder to go home to New York after father's death

NEW YORK—Gwyneth Paltrow says it's harder to spend time in New York since her father's death a year ago.

Acclaimed TV series

Bruce Paltrow, a producer and director who worked on acclaimed TV series including "The White Shadow" and "St. Elsewhere," died at 58 of throat cancer.

"I love New York, and I'll always be a New York girl at heart—but it's a very different place without my father around to meet me and have coffee with. Not that I drink coffee," Paltrow, who's famous for her macrobiotic diet, told Vogue magazine for its October issue.

"I do miss home," the actress added. "I feel very connected to American girlishness."

Paltrow, 31, said she spends about half her time in London, and has traveled this summer to Scotland, Australia, France and Spain. Her boyfriend, Chris Martin, is the lead singer of the British band Coldplay.

Grieving heavily

"When something as terrible as your father dying happens, you start redefining everything," she said. "I feel the finiteness of life—I'm still grieving pretty heavily—but I realize that we are all going to die, so I want to be with people that I love."

Her latest film, "Sylvia," in which she stars as poet Sylvia Plath, opens on Oct. 17. *AP*

Confusing dilution of roles in broadcast journalism

By Nestor U. Torre

THE LOCAL TV news and public affairs scene has become less professional of late with the incursion of news people into other program types.

Rule

The principle is for broadcast journalists to limit themselves to news and public affairs programs. Unfortunately, that rule has been broken by some of our most established TV news people. Some examples of the confusing dilution and distortion that's now taking place on the tube:

A TV news anchor now co-hosts a daytime talk and variety show for women.

Another co-hosts an early-evening talk-variety program and a weekly dramatic anthology.

A documentary producer/newscaster hosts a program that fulfills people's wishes.

A newscaster co-hosts a morning show and hosts an investigative program.

A fifth TV person does not just report the news but also anchors an investigative show.

A newscaster co-hosts a medical program.

The host of an interview show now also reports the news on a late-night program.

Perception

These combinations of functions are ill-advised because they confuse the viewing public's perception of the broadcast journalists involved, and their main job of reporting the news or shedding light on public affairs issues.

When a news anchor is seen prattling with young starlets on a talk-variety show or waxing emotional on a TV drama, that anchor's defining news function is trivialized, and his or her credibility and objectivity diluted to an unacceptable degree.

This also runs counter to another broadcast principle that news should never be confused with entertainment. The instances we've cited show this rule being broken time and again, and it's time for viewers to complain.

Truth to tell, professional broadcast journalists shouldn't have to be told this. The fact that some of them are mixing program types with impunity shows how they disrespect TV news and public affairs, the very fields that have made them well-known and respected in the first place.

Objectivity

We also wonder why TV news department heads allow this to happen. More than anybody else, they should appreciate the importance of objectivity, seriousness of purpose and probity in their line of work, and they should insist that the people working with them not dilute their important work with so many contradictory activities.

If a TV person insists on getting involved in other program types, he or she should stop reporting the news or doing a public affairs show.

News shouldn't be just one of the different things a broadcast journalist is involved in; it should be his whole focus, to which he devotes all of his time, ability and commitment. To do less than that would be to water down the all-important service of news and public affairs.

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3 PILYA
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5 FINDING NEMO
6 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
7 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
8 UNDERWORLD

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 HOW TO DEAL
4 INTESTATE 60
5 KATAS
6 LEGALLY BLONDE 2
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 THE MEDALLION

SM CITY BACOOR
4173868

1 PILYA
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 UNDERWORLD
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 FINDING NEMO
8 TREK

SM CITY PAMPANGA
3128015

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 PEOPLE I KNOW
3 THE MEDALLION
4 KATAS
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294675

1 PILYA
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 UNDERWORLD
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM BICUTAN
7763055

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 PILYA
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 UNDERWORLD

SM CITY MARILAO

OPENS Nov. 28

SM STA. MESA
7149522 • 7161416

1 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 PILYA
5 UNDERWORLD
6 FINDING NEMO
7 THE MEDALLION
8 FREDDY VS. JASON
9 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
10 TREK

SM SOUTHMALL
8066099

1 HOW TO DEAL
2 INNER SENSES
3 UNDERWORLD
4 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
5 FREDDY VS. JASON
6 FINDING NEMO
7 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
8 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
9 TREK
10 OILYA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9359749

1 THE MEDALLION
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 FIRST TIME
4 UNDERWORLD
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
7 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
8 FREDDY VS. JASON
9 TREK
10 KISKISAN
11 FINDING NEMO
12 PILYA

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 SPY KIDS 3-D
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 NEW BLOOD
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

SM CITY LUCENA
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1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
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4 2 FAST 2 FURIOUS

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9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
11 FREDDY VS. JASON
12 PILYA

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514392

1 finding nemo
2 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
3 PILYA
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

SM CITY ILOILO
3389422

1 KALABIT
2 RESERVED
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 THE MEDALLION
5 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6 PEOPLE I KNOW
7 RESERVED
8 VISIBLE SECRET

SM CITY MANILA
5235240

1 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
2 HOW TO DEAL
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
4 UNDERWORLD
5 FINDING NEMO
6 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
7 PILYA
8 TREK
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
10 THE MEDALLION
11 AMERICAN PSYCHO 2
12 INNER SENSES

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1 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
4 BASIC

SM CITY BAGUIO
(074) 4434555

OPENS Nov. 21

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18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City • 638 9781 - 85

11 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
11:05 FS/11:35 MF/1:40/3:45/5:50/7:55/9:30 LFS/10:00 LMF/11:35 END

21 UNDERWORLD
10:00 FS/10:10 FS/12:30/2:50/5:10/7:30/9:30 LFS/10:00 LMF/12:00 END

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2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 10:45, 1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00
3 GIGLI 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 HOW TO DEAL 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
5 UNDERWORLD 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:20, 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55
7 AMERICAN PSYCHO 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 7:00, 9:00
8 FINDING NEMO
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
10 THE TREK 10:35, 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50

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2 HOW TO DEAL - 10:30, 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45
3 TREK - 10:20, 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
4 AMERICAN PSYCHO - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA - 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:10, 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50
7 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 10:20, 12:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00

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2 AMERICAN PIE :THE WEDDING
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 UNDERWORLD
5 HOW TO DEAL
6 THE TREK
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 FINDING NEMO

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1 UNDERWORLD
2 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
3 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
4 THE MEDALLION
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 HOW TO DEAL
7 FREDDY VS. JASON
8 TREK

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THE MEDALLION
AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING

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1 UNDERWORLD
2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
3 TREK
4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
6 PILYA

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BASIC
PEOPLE I KNOW
1ST TIME

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2 VISIBLE SECRET
3 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
4 THE MEDALLION
5 KALABIT
6 PEOPLE I KNOW

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KATAS
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
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1 PILYA
2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 AMERICAN PIE: THE WEDDING
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
5

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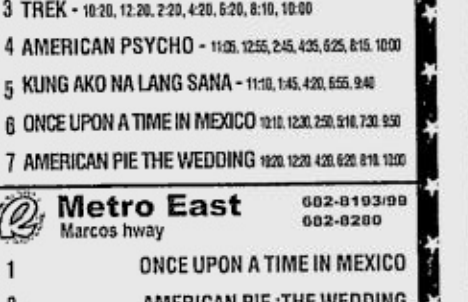

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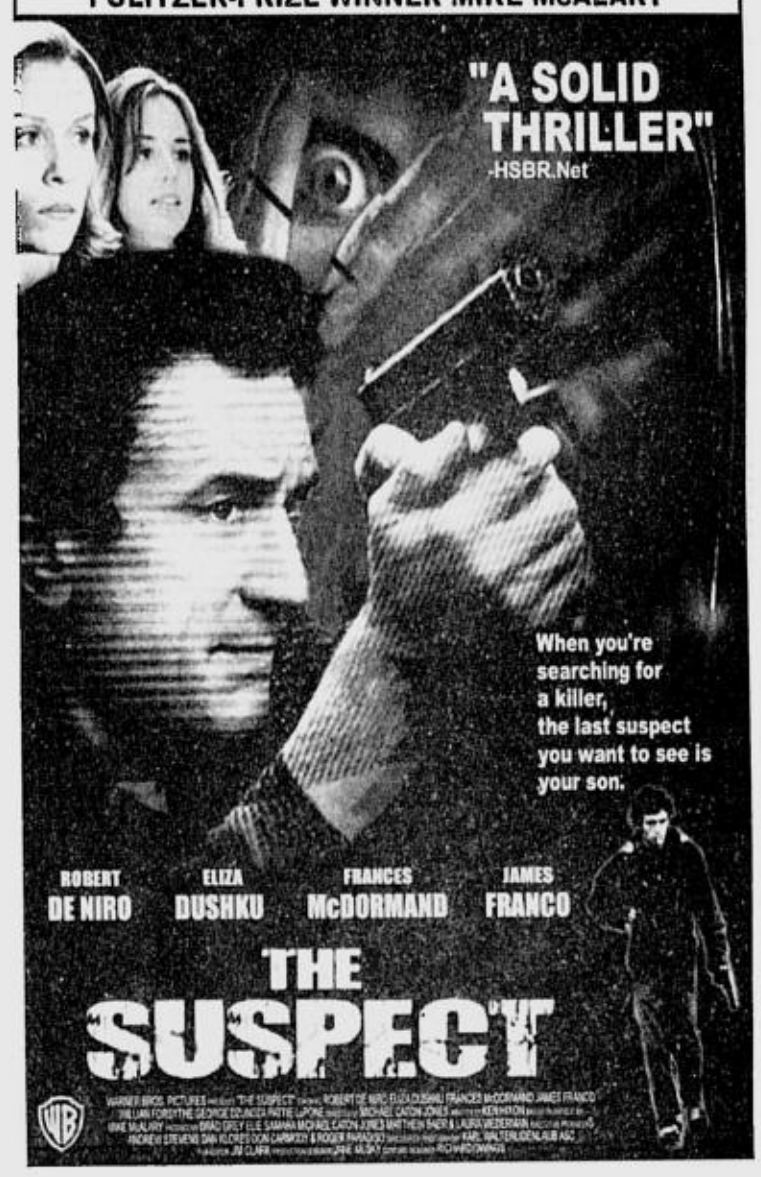

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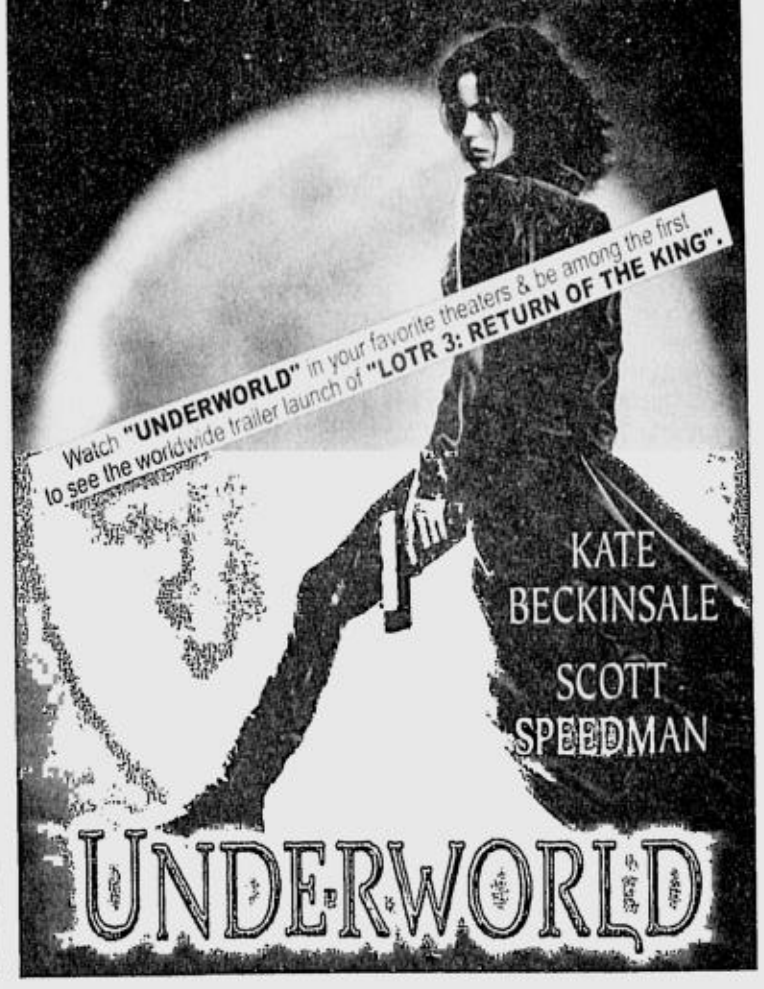

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AMERICAN PIE "THE WEDDING"
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R18

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ABS-CBN launches scriptwriting workshop

ABS-CBN will hold a free intensive scriptwriting workshop to be conducted by award-winning scriptwriter Ricky Lee. The workshop will open doors for the participants to write for ABS-CBN TV shows and films for Star Cinema.

On his own

The scriptwriting workshop will be the first collaboration of ABS-CBN and Ricky Lee. On his own, Ricky has been conducting workshops since 1982.

He is credited for some of the best works in Philippine cinema like "Rizal," "Anak," "Salome," "Himala" and "Bagong Buwan." He is also the author of the best-selling scriptwriting manual, "Trip to Quiapo."

Applicants who have a passion for writing, coupled with a keen interest in television and the movies, are welcome. No previous professional writing experience is required. Applicants need to be high school graduates and at least 18 years of age.

Screening

They will undergo rigid screening. Only the top 30 will be accepted as participants to the workshop.

Interested parties are requested to apply in person on any of the following days: Oct. 26 (Sunday) and Nov. 8, (Saturday) from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at ABS-CBN Studio 1 Plaza, ABS-CBN compound, Quezon City. Call 411-2020.

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2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING	2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	2 THE MAGDALENE SISTERS 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 2 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00, 12:00	2 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
3 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO	GUARANTEED SEATS THX 3 UNDERWORLD 1:10, 3:40, 6:10, 8:40, 11:10	LANI MISALUCHA Oct. 10 & 11, 9PM	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HOW TO DEAL 2:45, 4:45, 6:45, 8:45, 10:45	3 UNDERWORLD
4 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA	4 THE MAGDALENE SISTERS		GUARANTEED SEATS 4 CITY OF GOD 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30	4 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
	5 CITY OF GOD		GUARANTEED SEATS 5 BASIC	5 HOW TO DEAL
	6 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING			
	7 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO			

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MAGDALENE SISTERS

"A fierce, brilliant film"
Michael Wilmington, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The film, which won the Golden Lion at Venice & Discovery Award at the Toronto Film Festival, is based on the real-life story of thousands of young women who, because they were rootless or suspected of dallying with men, were into hard labor at convents, literally washing away their sins for the Irish Catholic Church. The film's electrifying opening sequences shows three protagonists falling into the clutches of the Sisters of Mercy. There's Margaret, raped by her cousin at a wedding; Rose, who gives birth to an illegitimate child; and gorgeous, sultry Bernadette whose only crime is flirting with boys.

A truly fresh, strong & inspiring masterpiece by acclaimed Scottish director Peter Mullan.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

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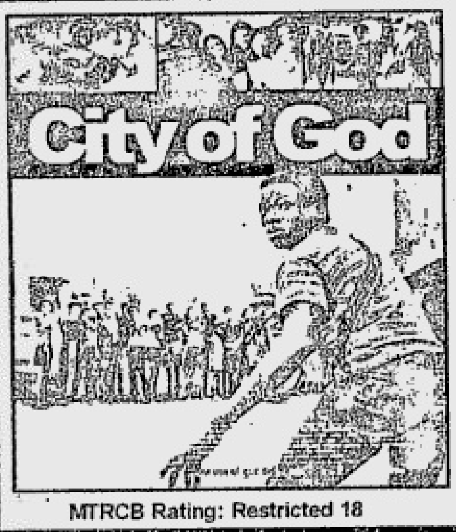
City of God



WELCOME TO THE WORLD'S MOST NOTORIOUS SLUM: Rio de Janeiro's "CITY OF GOD"

A place where combat photographers fear to tread, where police rarely go, and residents are lucky if they live to the age of 20.

This is the true story of a young man who grew up on these streets and whose ambition to become a photographer is our window into his world and ultimately may be his only way out.

"Scorching and powerful!" — Stephen Holden, NEW YORK TIMES

"A visual and aural feast..." — Mark Caro, CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Cinema doesn't get more exhilarating than this!" — Nev Pierce, BBC

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 18

MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult OPENS OCT. 15

matchstick men (mach stik men) n. pl. 1. Sleek con artists who have masterly portrayed the art of sweet-talking people into generously giving into to their desired purpose (Purpose maybe money, a thing, or a specified behavior) 2. Men who steal via wit, trickery, charm & confusion 3. Disturbed & troubled individuals who are on the verge of coming into an emotional or psychological breakdown (behavior traits: obsessive compulsive, chain-smoker & no personal relationships); severely complicated by the arrival of a teenage daughter 4. A sneakily, clever top-notch film by Sir Ridley Scott (Gladiator & Black Hawk Down)

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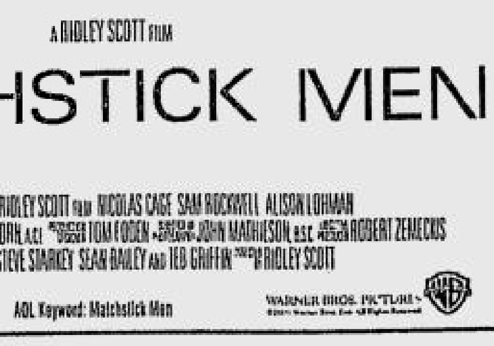

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Australian movies come to the fore

By Noelani Torre

THANK God for film festivals—sometimes, they are the only way to see good foreign, non-Hollywood films in this country. This is why we enjoyed the month of September, what with two festivals to choose from, and both of them free at that: Cine Europa 6 at Megamall, and the First Australian Film Festival.

"LOVE SERENADE." Wacky comedy.

"LANTANA." Based on the stage play, "Speaking in Tongues."

Festival

We were able to catch a few films in the second festival, and what we saw was enough for us to conclude that Australian cinema is alive, healthy and coming to the fore:

The opening film was "Lantana," helmed by Ray Lawrence, director of 1985's controversial and critically-acclaimed "Bliss," produced by "The Piano's" Jan Chapman, and based on Andrew Bovell's stage play, "Speaking in Tongues."

Though described as a thriller, the film is really an honest examination of human relationships, especially that between husband and wife.

The focus is on four marriages, all of them struggling in one way or another, and interconnected in a way that the characters don't always realize. It has been compared to "Magnolia" in this sense.

Distinguished cast

"Lantana's" distinguished cast includes Anthony La Paglia, Barbara Hershey, Geoffrey Rush, Kerry Armstrong, and Rachel Blake.

The second film we were able to watch was screenwriter Mark Lamprell's ("Babe: Pig in the City") debut feature, "My Mother Frank." Lightweight and unforgivably thin, the film is saved by good, earnest performances, and by enough laughs to keep you interested.

"Frank" tells the story of a 51-year-old woman who decides to give direction to her life by enrolling in the same university as her 21-year-old son. Sinead Cusack as Frank is sympathetic, even when she isn't being particularly nice.

Striking visual color

The film's striking visual color also keeps your interest up—with the characters color-coordinated according to "group"—white for society matrons, brown for nuns, and bright, almost neon colors for the university crowd. The light is almost harsh in its clarity.

Winner of the Camera d'Or Award, Un Certain Regard at the 1996 Cannes filmfest, Shirley Barrett's "Love Serenade" is a quirky, wacky comedy that will have you laughing and thinking at the same time.

Set in a dusty, dilapidated town in the Australian outback, "Love Serenade" tells the story of two sisters whose lives are so flat that the arrival of a Brisbane radio personality next door sends them into the most bizarre tizzies.

The older sister, Vicki-Ann, showers their celebrity neighbor, Ken Sherry, with casseroles, while the younger, Dimity, who appears uninterested at first, comes right out and asks the poker-faced DJ whether he would like for her to "ease his loneliness."

Seduction scene

The seduction scene is the funniest in the movie, with the virginal Dimity struggling with her clothes and trying to get a reaction from the lounge lizard relaxing on the couch. Miranda Otto, whom we last saw as Eowyn in "Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers," delivers a priceless performance as the "odd" and strangely innocent Dimity.

Rebecca Frith, as the perpetually dolled-up and desperate Vicki-Ann, is also a delight to watch, while George Shevstov, as the self-centered fortysomething radio has-been with a preference for Barry White songs, is cunningly smooth-faced.

The film's surprise ending has to do with the DJ's deep, dark secret, which we'd rather not give away. But here's a hint: go fish.

Josh Santana tries his hand at recording

By Andy P. Bais

JOSH Santana was the name of a character Michael Pamular played on the primetime soap, "Bituin," headlined by Nora Aunor. In the popular series, he was the other love interest of Carol Banawa's character.

Instant celebrity

The pairing was such a hit that Michael became an instant celebrity. But the show's followers started to call him Josh Santana when they recognized him in public places. So, his handlers decided to adopt the popular monicker as his screen name.

The 20-year-old singer-actor claims that he was a "late bloomer." He was 15 when he gathered enough courage to sing before a crowd. "*Sa harap ng mga kamag-anak pa yun. Pinilit lang ako ng sister ko na kumanta* during her birthday," he recalls.

Naturally, the whole clan was pleasantly surprised to discover a budding entertainer in the family! "I have seven siblings, *pero ako lang ang mahilig kumanta*," he adds.

Only a few of his friends knew that he could sing. "*Mahiyain kasi ako.* I didn't know I'd end up in show business," he reflects.

Career

But Josh secretly wanted a career in show biz. Convinced that his shyness wouldn't lead him anywhere, he joined an all-boy group, Boystown. For two years, the group did the rounds of the live entertainment scene.

The group's manager, Manny Valera, must have sensed that among its members, Josh had a strong potential. When an audition was called for a singer-actor to be paired with Carol Banawa in "Bituin," Manny sent Josh to try out for the part.

From out of some 50 hopefuls, Josh was singled out for the role. His refreshing poster-boy good looks earned him the judges' nod.

How was it acting with the Superstar? "*Nakaka*-tense! Feeling *ko, ang layu-layo ng* acting *ko sa kanya. Pakiramdam ko minsan, hindi ako kasali sa* frame. *Napaka*-intense *ni Ate* Guy!, " he relates.

Nice words

He only has nice words for his co-actors in "Bituin," especially for Carol Banawa. "*Ni minsan, 'di niya pinaramdam na baguhan ako at* star *siya.* She was very generous in giving me acting tips," he says.

Josh doesn't hide his excitement over the prospect of his becoming a recording artist—even if he has to share his debut album with two other singers, King and Divo. The album, "Solo," so titled because the three singers featured in it previously played with bands.

Josh is happy that his carrier single, the Tagalog version of the popular Meteor Garden theme, "Can't Help Fallin'," is doing well at the charts. He also has a remake of Jamie Rivera's "Mahal Naman Kita." His rendition of the romantic ballad, "Ikaw Lang Pala," is heartfelt without being mushy.

Indication

We had a chance to see Josh perform live, and if the fevered reaction of the fans were an indication, then he is definitely on his way up.

But he is thankful for his newfound success. "*Minsan*, when I went to a fast food restaurant, *may* children's party *pala doon. Nakilala nila ako at pumila lahat ng mga bata* to get my autograph," he laughs.

On Nov 19, Josh will have his first solo concert at Ratsky's in Tomas Morato, QC. "I have to work hard to prove that I can really sing. *Marami kasing nagaakalang nagli*-lipsynch *ako* on TV," he explains.

SANTANA. Decided to adopt the name of the character he played on the soap opera, "Bituin."

Early, rawer version of Beatles' 'Let it Be' to go on sale in Nov.

LONDON—A new version of the popular 1970 Beatles album, "Let It Be," stripped of the orchestration added by the US arranger Phil Spector, is to be issued in November, the Apple Corps record company recently said.

McCARTNEY. Did not like Spector's version of "The Long and Winding Road."

Surviving members

The new-old version will be "exactly the sound we produced in the studio at the time," McCartney, one of the two surviving members of the four-man group, said.

The album, most of whose tracks were composed in 1969, originally had a strong rock character, but when finally released bore the stamp of Spector, whose work had greatly impressed John Lennon.

It was originally due to be called "Get Back," but the original version was abandoned after the group broke up.

Recordings

Spector then took over the hundreds of hours of recordings and produced "Let It Be," including a version of Paul McCartney's "The Long and Winding Road," which the author did not appreciate at all.

The new version, entitled "Let It Be . . . Naked" will go on sale on Nov. 17.

Three tracks that were on the original—"Background Dialogue," "Dig It" and "Maggie Mae"—are to be dropped, while one that was not—"Don't Let Me Down"—will be added.

Apple Corps was the company originally set up to handle the Beatles' business interests, and its logo appears on their records.

The firm was recently in the news when it confirmed that it had filed a trademark lawsuit against Apple Computer over the latter company's decision to launch an online music sales service. *AFP*

Renee Zellweger says she's doing the math to put on weight

LONDON—Actress Renee Zellweger said Wednesday that putting on weight for her upcoming role in the "Bridget Jones" sequel has been a piece of cake—but no doughnuts.

ZELLWEGER. Has been eating healthy food with hidden fat.

Fattening food

"It's really just math. I've been eating lots of really fattening food. I read that I'd been eating doughnuts, but they're not really my thing," Zellweger said as she braved a rainy evening to attend the London premiere of her film, "Down with Love."

Zellweger was wrapped up warmly in a black wool coat and knee-high black boots to greet fans outside the cinema in Kensington, southwest London.

Zellweger said she has been working with a nutritionist who has been feeding her healthy food with hidden fat to prepare for her role as Britain's most famous singleton. Breakfast consists of four slices of toast and cream cheese.

Four-course breakfast

"That's just the first course," Zellweger said. "It's a four-course breakfast. I don't really think about it because I'm usually doing something else."

The star said she still exercised, but "if you are talking about running Hyde Park, I'm not going to be doing that."

Asked how she would lose the weight again, the answer was simple: "Just by doing the math." *AP*

ÉLAN

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Value plus

By Marge C. Enriquez

Cito Lorenzo, Bea Zobel Jr., Lourdes Tuason would ordinarily grace the covers of glossy magazines, but they'd rather not be labeled 'sosyal,' on account of their true pursuits

IT FEELS like ÉLAN has come full circle.

ÉLAN was originally designed not only as a special section on the lifestyle of the elite, but also to give advertisers added value via editorial support for their goods and services. When I say editorial support, I mean news, features and pictorials that follow the canons of journalism, not "press releases."

Nothing can be more insulting to professional journalists than advertisers (who, from our perspective are also legitimate news sources) asking: "Can you write a press release about this or that?" Or, out of sheer ignorance and despite good intentions, they might say, "Thank you for the press release."

The press release is the job of a publicist, although press releases sometimes follow the same rules of news writing. In editorial coverage, the writer's allegiance is to the readers and the news organization. The press release is slanted to promote the interest of the news source.

In the last issue ÉLAN wrote about Ayala Land's model units at The Residences. In a future issue, another real estate company will support the second section of ÉLAN when we feature the country's top architects and designers who developed the company's properties. In our October issues, ÉLAN is working with longtime partner Rustan's to create awareness of the store's beauty and cosmetics festival. This is why we have two sections.

Rhoda Campos, prime mover of the cosmetics division, has shown faith in the power of the broadsheets. Although the principals have always favored the glossy magazines for advertisements and editorials, the situation in the Philippines is different. The broadsheet is still the main source of lifestyle information. Advertisers tell me they still get more feedback from the newspapers.

For this issue, the first section features personalities that would ordinarily grace glossy society magazines—Agriculture Sec. **Cito Lorenzo**, **Beatriz Zobel vda. de Urquijo** of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, and lifestyle arbiter **Lourdes de Tuason.** Of course, these subjects would shirk the idea of being called "sosyal" because they feel their missions in life are more important.

The second section features Rustan's new products from the perspective of the contributors. When Rustan's clockwork-efficient media relations officer **Jenny Teves** sent us a bag of testers from the Japanese brand, Awake, I was like a little girl in Candyland, trying out the latest foundations, eyeshadows, colored mascaras and lip colors. I immediately got hooked on the brand.

Our own Julia Roberts

Over dinner in a cozy restaurant in New South Wales, the conversation went to **Kris Aquino.** This girl could never forget how nasty I was when I was still doing Playtime with the Lifestyle section. One of the questions I asked, which was edited, was why she was such a pervert.

"Are you going to ask me that?" **Bea Zobel Jr.** was worried when I set an appointment to interview her about Met's activities. "I'm going to be disinherited!"

Journalists can be naughty but they still have to observe etiquette. During that familiarization tour, Zobel came with businessman **Joel Floro Uichico.** Bea made news in the social circuit when she was dating Uichico. A common friend wanted to match them up since Zobel was a widow and Uichico was just recovering from the loss of his wife who had died of cancer.

Zobel, who is often said to look like a Mediterrenean **Julia Roberts,** isn't exactly Uichico's ideal woman, preferably a delicate Oriental beauty. She sent a text message assuring him that she didn't bite. He replied that she was sending him SMS in church. Zobel shot back, demanding why he was replying while in a house of prayer. Uichico was amused.

On their first date, he presented her with an underwater photograph taken during one of his diving trips. The two both enjoy diving—which eventually became a bond.

In our interview, Zobel talks about her mother's style of child-rearing and public service. Like her mother, Zobel believes in the English school system, and are having her kids educated the English way. She's happy that **Jaime,** 15, and **Paloma,**12, are well- adjusted in boarding school.

"I'm trying to instill in them a positive outlook in life. I also believe that discipline is fundamental. You can't do anything without discipline, even with regards to marriage and friendship. A child without a routine is a child without a path," she says.

Speaking of which, Zobel has found her own path—by rediscovering her roots.

Give and take

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Avon is organizing a photo exhibit at the Shangri-La Plaza Mall featuring images of breast cancer survivors. Manila's top photographers revealed their own sentiments in capturing the soul of these women in black and white.

Patrick Uy, one of our best-loved photographers for being so cool and cooperative, says his subject,**Nelly Jamelo,** wanted to leave the dismal conditions of the hospital and just surrender to fate. However, her conscience told her that she could conquer breast cancer if she wanted to. Her motivation: to be part of her children's future. She lived long enough to even see her grandchild whom Uy also photographed.

The photographer could perfectly relate to his sitter, since his own mother once caught the big C and conquered it.

The self-taught photographer began editing photos for the Ateneo newspaper and yearbook. He joined the travel trade and during the fam tours, he gradually assembled his equipment. He contributed to publications, doing fashion shoots, and eventually got referrals for advertising.

A decade ago, wedding photography was looked down on like the ID photo. Today it is a lucrative business. Uy started by shooting for a friend's wedding. More people started noticing his talent. Designer friends gave him referrals, and continued to do so.

He's the best example of good karma. He won recognition as much for his work as for his easy nature and professionalism.

"We've been blessed. It's the little thing we can do to give back to the community," says Uy. Well as they say, in giving service, you receive blessings in return.

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Chatting up Cito

By Mozart Pastrano
Contributor

PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

'At first glance, I'm not a farmer's farmer. But the one who helps the farmer is the best person for the job. I love being around simple folk– -they have no pretensions'

A SLEW of banana slices swims in a bowl of muesli that the Agriculture Secretary, Luis P. Lorenzo Jr., is having for breakfast. It sums up the man: first, his savvy business acumen that has managed to turn a bankrupt company around in such a remarkable way that it now has a 40 percent share of the market for fresh bananas in China today; second, a well-grounded, no-nonsense family life. "We're not party people," he declares—a resolve shaped, in no small measure, by a father who romanced the land with forward-looking gusto, and a mother who tempered her husband with such homely wisdom as insistence on vegetarian food.

Beside the bowl, Lorenzo has placed three bulky mobile phones—apparently fancy-free, state-of-the-art technological wonders, one of which is his direct line to President Arroyo. With a naughty schoolboy grin that pulls you into his confidence, Lorenzo quips: "I have somebody to respond to text messages and calls."

These days, Lorenzo—or "Cito" to just about everyone—doesn't have the time for such mundane tasks. He's into the big picture of government service: creating one million jobs in the agricultural sector by 2004; establishing self-sufficiency in rice production by the same year; pulling down inflation in the food sector... and the list daunting.

So pressed for time is he that he wakes up, as a matter of course, at 4:30 a.m. every work day, "which is every day," he notes. "Farmers wake up early, right?" If he is not up when radio commentators call him to comment on agriculture issues during their early-morning talk shows, "I feel guilty."

Exceptional

"Today is exceptional," he says. "I was super-tired and jetlagged so I woke up at six." The night before, he had arrived with President Macapagal from Rome, where he and his wife Maria Elena, or Malen, joined the First Family in meeting with the Pope. "I still had two meetings upon arrival, so I came home past midnight."

The toll of such a killer schedule doesn't show during this 8 a.m. interview. Snappy and dashing in a red tie that pulls together a black suit over a crisp white shirt with muted brown square prints (he acknowledges the brands but requests not to mention them), Lorenzo looks ready to sally forth into his 10 appointments for the day.

"It's exceptional that I'm dressed in a suit," he qualifies, flustered to know that his photograph will be taken for this story. "Normally I'm in a *polo barong*. I'm in a suit today only because the air-conditioning in Malacañang is so strong and I have to make a presentation."

Otherwise, he says, he works it out so that his schedule allows him to go to the countryside and interact with farmers, join them in hearty breakfasts of rice, fish, and tomatoes. "I have to eat everything they serve," he flashes the naughty grin again. "Besides, "I've developed this habit of eating when there's food. With an unwieldy schedule, I never know when my next meal would be, if there's going to be any at all, or if there's time. I sometimes end up having dinner at home at 10 p.m."

Branding

Being a Cabinet member, he says, "is much more difficult than being in the private sector. You're dealing with more people, multiple variables that are not in your control; you're in perpetual motion."

But he is guided by a few things he learned along the way, starting with two years as an investment banker on Wall Street. "I've always been a consumer-oriented person. I grew up in the marketing department of Proctor & Gamble. There we created brands. In fact, I'm still branding. In the food sector, for example, you always look at the value-adding initiative. In the same way, my model is all-inclusive, from farm to port, concept to consumer."

He continues with a cryptic statement. "It's probably the most difficult job after the Presidency."

Now he segues to his political plans. "At first glance, I'm not a farmer's farmer. But the one who helps the farmer is the best person for the job. I have the facility to be able to chat up both the powerful and the poor. I love being around simple folk—they give you sound, practical advice; they have no pretensions. I've been invited to consider a political career. I have a very strong base in Mindanao. But I need to discern well. Maybe not the Senate. Maybe, well, in a parliamentary system, you need to be a Congressman to have a parliamentary constituent post. My Mindanao roots are a strong consideration."

Disciplined

Lorenzo was born April 7, 1958 at the Philippine General Hospital in Manila, but spent the first few years of his life at the farm owned by his father's family in Balabagan, Lanao del Norte.

In a well-praised autobiography of Lorenzo's father written by Nelson A. Navarro, Lorenzo's mother Alice remembers those Balabagan days: "We had a barbed wire fence around our house, and then at a certain time before sundown we would close everything and let the dogs out. Cito—we only had one child at the time—always had a *bantay* (guard) even while inside the house, even while sleeping, because kidnapping was very rampant. It was a no-man's land."

What a welcome change it was, then, when in 1959 the young family moved to peaceful Northern Mindanao. Lorenzo's father had been invited to join Del Monte Corp., whose plantation in Bukidnon was the largest contiguous pineapple field in the world at the time.

The Lorenzos lived at Kawayanon, a golf residential enclave for Del Monte expats, but Luis Sr. and Alice made sure that their children studied not at the International School branch inside the "little America" atmosphere of pine-straddled Kawayanon but at the Our Lady of Lourdes school in Camp Phillips, which was attended by the children of Filipino workers.

Lorenzo belonged to the first batch of students, the class of 1964. "My parents wanted their children to be grounded in Filipino reality," Lorenzo says, now finishing his breakfast to make it to his next appointment (this interview was supposed to take only 30 minutes). "They were so strict, they didn't give me money for school, because everything was provided for anyway; they didn't pamper me with material comforts." In an earlier interview with the INQUIRER, he admitted that at 10 years old, he sold *calamansi* juice at the golf course in Kawayanon so he could buy *tira-tira* at the *sari-sari* store.

His business savvy awakened, Lorenzo enrolled as a business management major at the Ateneo de Manila, and graduated in 1979.

"I stayed at the family house in Malate, near La Salle," Lorenzo recalls. "I commuted through second year college, taking the public bus when I missed the family car. But in junior year, I had a Volkswagen."

Family ties

Ateneo was a family tradition, especially because Lorenzo's father was the legendary Blue Eagles basketball star dubbed "Moro" (because he hailed from Mindanao, the land of Moros). In fact, when the patriarch died in 1997, the children—Lorenzo has seven siblings, four other boys and three girls—donated an estimated P50 million to build the impressive Moro Lorenzo Sports Center inside Ateneo's Loyola Heights campus, now the proud home and training ground of the Blue Eagles.

But Lorenzo's children "go to school wherever they want. One is in the University of Asia in the Pacific. Two of my boys are in Ateneo High School, but the middle boy is in Southridge."

Lorenzo himself has an MBA in International Business from the prestigious Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania. Asked if that was where he met his wife, who's also a Wharton MBA graduate, Lorenzo laughs, then confides, "Actually, I followed her there."

He says he met Malen Yulo (of the eminent Canlubang clan) on a blind date in December 1974. They got married a year after graduating from Wharton, in 1983.

"She's involved in her family's business, but now that I'm in government, we seldom talk about it," he points out.

Lorenzo returned to the Philippines to help his father run a business empire that started with the acquisition of the Lapanday Agricultural and Development Corp. from the Ayala and Aboitiz family-owned conglomerates. The Lorenzos planted this 1,282-hectare spread near Davao City with bananas, in spite of market advice against such an enterprise.

When this proved successful, the Lorenzos went on a binge, buying Sterling Tobacco in 1987, Pepsi-Cola Philippines in 1989, and Macondray in 1990. Then in 1996, the biggest coup of all: the Lorenzos bought Del Monte Philippines—a dramatic turnaround from being employee to owner.

In 2001, Lorenzo received the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry's Aurelio Periquet Jr. pillar award for business leaders. He was handpicked to be the private sector's representative to the World Trade Organization and a member of the APEC business advisory council.

"I'm very careful about praise," he says finally, wrapping up the chat. "My parents never complimented me for anything when I was growing up. I was always struggling and trying to do what I had to do, without seeking recognition. I have learned to be sparing in giving praise, too, because people tend to relax."

Off hours

This begs the question, how does a busy man like him relax?

"I swim a lot, I used to do golf but not competitively, I do the treadmill at home. I love Nature, I love mountains. Bukidnon is ideal for me. Tagaytay, too, and Baguio. I'm a mountain person."

Quality family time means Sundays spent with Malen and the kids, or even just early-morning breakfasts together. "My boys play soccer, and I take the time to watch their games." He admits he loves to travel—"if I'm allowed to travel."

He coincides his trips abroad to catch bargain buys during sale season, usually during the summer. "My favorite brand? It's got to be Hugo Boss. For cologne, I like Bvlgari, it's not as old as my Aramis way back. I have plaid shirts galore. My favorite plaids are red. I like my red very bright. But I don't wear *maong* pants. I'm a Dockers person, you know, blue khakis, blacks."

Lately, his trips abroad have mostly been official ones. "I haven't done much travel since I joined government; I've been confined to shopping for jobs as President Arroyo's million-job man."

On such official trips, "I often ask my peers in many countries how they handle stress on the job. Some have told me they 'shut off' one to two hours a day—no cell phones, no distractions; they exercise and do some meditation."

But he cannot do that, he sighs. "There's always work to do. Always. The thing I do is, I do my work, but I'm not bound by it."

What do bind him, are family ties.

His father was elected delegate to the 1970 Constitutional Convention. So was his father's sister, Maria Claria L. Lobregat, Zamboanga's preeminent politician. Both were inspired by their father, Don Pablo, who was once appointed mayor of Zamboanga and later became Commissioner of Immigration in Manila.

It's in the blood, which is as sticky and basic as Lorenzo's breakfast of muesli today.

Cito Lorenzo and fellow Wharton alumni will present the premiere of "Runaway Jury," a movie based on the novel by John Grisham, and starring John Cusack, Gene Hackman and Dustin Hoffman, on Oct. 21, Tuesday, 7:30 p.m. at Cinema 2, Robinsons Galleria, Ortigas. The project is in cooperation with PLDT myDSL, Smart, 1st Life and Honda Cars Kalookan.

For details call the Wharton-Penn Club of the Philippines, 817-9961 fax: 817-9962 or 0920-9208141.

Art for all

PHOTO BY PATRICK UY

With Victorino 'Ino' Manalo as executive director, the Metropolitan Museum of Manila has been visited by people from all walks of life

METROPOLITAN Museum executive director Victorino "Ino" Manalo has a goal: to change public perception of art as an elitist diversion. He believes that art is not just decorative, it can also pump in cash.

Heading the museum for over a year now, Manalo is proud of carrying on traditions established by former Met presidents—National Artist Arturo Luz, Felice Sta. Maria, Rita Ledesma, and Cora Alvina—particularly the promotion of art from the Philippine perspective. Sta. Maria re-oriented the Met from a showcase of international art to one that promotes Filipino artistry. The Met is the first museum that started using bilingual text in its annotations.

The Museum holds the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' collection of excavated gold, pottery, 19th century paintings and other rare artworks. It also maintains partnerships with artists and artisans on the grassroots level, and has been holding exhibits that focus on the arts' role in the country's progress.

One of the new administration's accomplishments is bringing in hordes of people from all walks of life to visit the Museum without being intimidated by the environment.

"We have clarified the meaning of 'Art for All,'" Manalo says proudly. "Operationally we are focusing on art and community. You are talking about city planning, design, architecture. My focus is enhancing people's lives. This means making people aware that art is critical for national development."

Sustainable utility

One of the Met's landmark shows was the exhibit of Bohol arts and artifacts, which included 300 pieces and *retablos* from Bohol churches. Manalo and company flew to the province to source the pieces. The Met also asked designers to create products inspired by the region. The "Designing Bohol" exhibit was transferred to an exhibit formed by the Center for International Trade and Export Missions. This culminated in US$15,000 worth of orders.

"It proved that art could make an economic impact," says Manalo, adding that the exhibit likewise enhanced Bohol's image as a tourist destination.

"Art is a conviction," he continues. "It is a very powerful force that we underestimate in terms of effect on people's lives and what it could teach us. My teachers at the University of the Philippines, Felipe de Leon and Jack Pilar, have taught me that art has a value which I call sustainable utility. All other goods have limited utility. No matter how beautiful an Armani suit is, it can be used only for a number of times. A work of art is enriched over time. As people continue to listen to Beethoven or the Hinilawod epic, its value escalates."

He hopes that art can be reintegrated into areas of influence and viewed as an economic force.

Unique situation

"We have a unique situation," says Manalo. "The world is not very aware of the variety of our art forms. Even among Filipinos, I doubt that the ruling elite is familiar with the rich tradition of the *moro-moro*. Cebuanos fight for the use of their language, but I don't think they are completely literate in Cebuano. I don't think they've read an entire novel in Cebuano, or know who their novelists are.

"We're in the same boat. How many of us have read of 18th-century works in Tagalog? The more elite the Filipino, the less he or she is able to speak in the native tongue. Whereas in Thailand, for instance, the wealthier you are, the more impeccable your speech. Same with Javanese. The rich Javanese are puppeteers. They can dance and play instruments from the *gamelan* orchestra. There is familiarity with their culture, not just lip service."

Asked why he has personally chosen art as his life's mission, Manalo replies: "It helps build character. I've always defined art as a reflection of the internal world on the external world as manifested through metaphors. It's about the unity of form and content. It's something to constantly work for. I've seen some people who have achieved that balance between internal and external—through the arts."

maxwear

Big styles for big men

Building a big size wardrobe could be an enormous challenge. After all, we all care about how we look whether we're short and chubby, or simply big and tall. Whatever our "bulk," that doesn't mean we have to stop looking our best!

Big size styling is all about making your body look **"more vertical than horizontal"**. Only at the MaxWear Section of SM Department Store can you shop for the styles and sizes you need to expand your wardrobe.

SM relaxwear collection offers a choice of three fabrics:

1. **woven,** available in solids or checks
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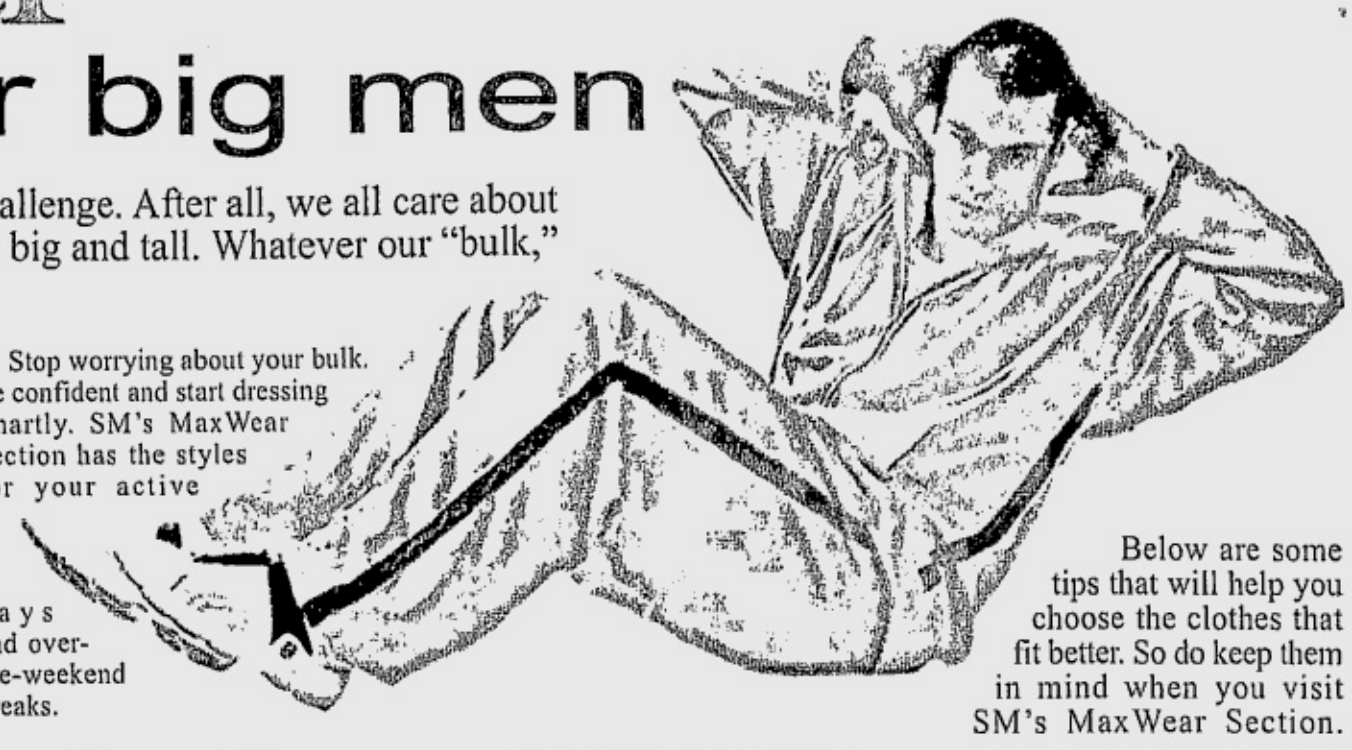
3. **ribbed materials** for textured effect



Stop worrying about your bulk. Be confident and start dressing smartly. SM's MaxWear Section has the styles for your active days and over-the-weekend breaks.

Below are some tips that will help you choose the clothes that fit better. So do keep them in mind when you visit SM's MaxWear Section.

- When shopping for tops choose those that fit your body, without being too tight or too loose. Lighter fabrics such as cotton or linen are ideal choices.
- Wear V-necks to draw attention away from the chin and neck. Crew necks, on the other hand, emphasize the thickness of the neck.
- In choosing collars for dress shirts, the basic rule is not to wear collars. Men with a round face should avoid spread collars. However, these rules do not apply to every man and every situation. The key is to trust your judgement and wear what makes you feel confident!
- Avoid letting your belly stick out over your pants; this lengthens your torso and shortens your legs, resulting in a very unattractive combination.

- In choosing slacks,try not to wear tight or baggy pants. When buying pants, a good fit is essential. Also, try to avoid pants with pleats, as they'll make your pelvic area look bigger.
- The idea is to make your stems look longer rather than wider. If your belly sticks out, consider wearing suspenders under your blazer, thereby removing the visual spotlight from your midriff.
- Empty unnecessary items from your pockets; overstuffed pockets also call attention to your mid-section.

Whatever your body type, make sure your best features stand out while your less perfect ones remain, for the most part, unnoticed. Remember do not try to overtly camouflage your weaker points because it only brings them out even more.

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PALSY-WALSY with designer Pepito Albert

Bea Jr., Met Museum frontrunner, emphatically denies that being a Zobel gets her everything she needs

Working for her goals, like everyone else

By Marge C. Enriquez
Photos by Patrick Uy
Pictorial direction by Albert Avellana
Hair and makeup by Patrick Rosas

BY VIRTUE of her surname, Beatriz Zobel (a.k.a. Bea Jr.) is a favorite frontrunner of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. As treasurer of the Met's board of trustees, she is tasked with getting corporate sponsorship and patronage for the museum, as well as facing the media.

Bea nixes the misconception about the Zobels being a cordoned family. "We're so normal," she says.

Normal, indeed. Zobel has no qualms about not getting preferential treatment anywhere. For instance, during a familiarization trip to Australia's pioneer wine region last month, Zobel didn't mind taking the long-haul flight in the poverty class, a term Australians use for coach. Not bad for someone who is well-connected with Spanish aristocracy and the Royal Family in Madrid.

She is the third of seven children. Unlike her two older brothers—Jaime Augusto, co-vice-chair and President of the Ayala Corporation; and Fernando, co-vice-chair —who are reserved and deliberate when they talk, Zobel is just like her mother Doña Beatriz and youngest sister, Sofia—spirited, intensely focused, interested and engaging. These Zobel women have the willfulness to get things done and they get very animated when they talk.

"Am I making you dizzy?" she would ask. "We sound as if we draw the energy from people like a hurricane passing through." She has the charm and talent to make others feel privileged to listen to a recounting of her larger-than-life drama.

Pinoy by choice

Born in the Philippines and a resident of Spain for 13 years, Zobel has maintained her Filipino citizenship. This means she has to get up at the crack of dawn to queue for residency in Madrid and visa applications in other embassies.

She and her sisters run a couple of boutiques in Madrid that offer chic accessories sourced from all over Europe. Bea has lived abroad since she was nine years old, starting when her father, Don Jaime, was appointed ambassador to the Court of St. James's in London. She was first sent to an English boarding school, and then she studied in one of America's top women's colleges, Smith, majoring in modern history. She married Juan Urquijo, a dashing businessman who worked for an international company that bought into Tabacalera. Under his management, the ailing Tabacalera made a dramatic turnaround. He was supposed to oversee business in Asia until his tragic death.

Eight years ago, he died in Paris. Five minutes after his plane took off, a flock of birds had been sucked into the engine, sending the plane crashing. Zobel was then four months pregnant with their third child, Paloma.

After the mourning period, Zobel bounced back, waxing philosophical: "For the sake of the children, you say, 'Life is wonderful.' I just had to press onward."

It turns out that, in her early 40s, she has found her true calling. "I've always been searching for my path. I do a lot of charity work. I have my three children, and my business. There was something lacking. I could not explain it. I went to a priest who's very modern in his thinking. He said, 'Only you can find your own path. Keep searching.' I asked, 'Where do I look?' I had been going around in circles. I finally felt this calling was in the Philippines."

Civic consciousness

She settled in Manila two years ago to start anew and continue the family tradition of philanthropy. The Zobels are a close-knit family. The girls—Bea, Patricia, Cristina, Monica and Sofia look up to their Harvard-bred brothers with deep respect. Their parents exposed them to the arts and films. Their mother set an example of civic consciousness.

"My mother taught us that even if we were privileged, we should never look down on people," says the younger Bea. "You name it, my mother is there for anybody who needs help—lepers, streetchildren, the Mangyans. She's hands on. That she imparted to us—to help our neighbors."

Civic consciousness is closely linked to patriotism, a trait also instilled in her children by Mrs. Zobel.

"She gave up her Spanish citizenship 45 years ago when she married my father. She holds the Philippines close, in her guts. I once asked her, 'Mom, which would you die for first—your children or your country?' She answered, 'I'll die for my country anytime!' I'll never forget that. She feels desperate at times when things go wrong here. Yet, she'll always give a helping hand."

The Zobels have their own causes. Her father, Don Jaime, chair of Ayala Corp., with his wife, supported the Ballet Philippines in the formative years. Jaime Augusto has the World Wide Fund and the Children's Hour, Fernando builds low-cost homes for Habitat for Humanity. Former dancer Sofia established Steps Dance Studio, which aims to raise the level of dance education in the country, and aids the BP in its concerts. Bea and Patricia back up Buklod Bahayan, a day-care center in Silang, Cavite, with the help of the Ayala Foundation. Sisters-in-law Lizzie has a literacy drive called Aklat Sisikat, and Kit, Fernando's wife, is the spokesperson for Center for Excellence in Public Elementary Education.

A childhood friend, Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga, introduced Bea to Victorino "Ino" Manalo, the Met's executive director. An intellectual and a scholar, he got her excited about the richness of Philippine culture.

"I rediscovered the Philippines through the art world," says Zobel. Last year, when the Met set up an exhibit of Bohol artifacts, Zobel shuttled between the province and Manila. She organized tour groups to the province. She also brought in busloads of people from the center in Cavite to enjoy the Museum's offerings. The Met was the main sponsor of the Loboc Children's Choir, which recently won the top prize in a competition in Barcelona.

Hard work

But the nitty-gritty of her work involves raising funds for the museum, which is a private foundation.

"Horrific! I've never done this before. I wrote lots of letters and no one answered. Ino said, 'Follow up!' I tremble every time I call up a corporation," she says. She devotes one whole day to elicit responses for her solicitation letters.

Friends say it must be easy to get things done, with her illustrious surname.

Zobel sets the record straight matter-of-factly: "I feel I have to work hard at it. The hardest one was making a presentation to (my brother) Fernando. They expect much from me because I'm his sister. People have this misimpression that just because I am a Zobel, I can get everything from Ayala."

She recalls that she and the Met team had to make a Power-Point presentation to Ayala Land Inc. They did not get any special treatment. "Why should I," she said. "I have to earn it."

When she broached the subject of sponsorship for the Terno Ball at the Met on Nov. 22, Fernando advised her to change the strategy, put more substance into the activity that would instill national pride. Thus, "The Matchless Terno," which will run from November to February 2004, will feature an exhibit of the national costume, a design competition, an invitational workshop, a fashion show and ball. She is grateful for her brother's tips when making a pitch to corporations.

Asked if she got paid for her work at the Met, she answers emphatically, "No! And I don't want to be paid. I'm doing it for the love of my country. It's something that I strongly believe in. We are trying to show that art is essential in affirming the Filipino identity."

Zobel points out that art should be a national priority because of its transformative effect: "When you are surrounded by negativity, it just bogs you down. In the world of art, everything is so beautiful, and there is positive energy. Art is the soul of a nation. It should go hand in hand with all other factors meant to push this country forward."

'The Matchless Terno' at the Met

THE METROPOLITAN Museum of Manila needs to raise some P11.2 million for its operations. One of its activities is the Terno Ball on Nov. 22 that opens "The Matchless Terno" exhibit.

"Terno" here means "match." It is the Filipinized term of the Spanish "terno," which means "suit," but which is used only in Latin American countries, not in Spain.

Met executive director Ino Manalo describes the *terno* that Pepito Albert made for Beatriz Zobel Jr. for the INQUIRER pictorial:

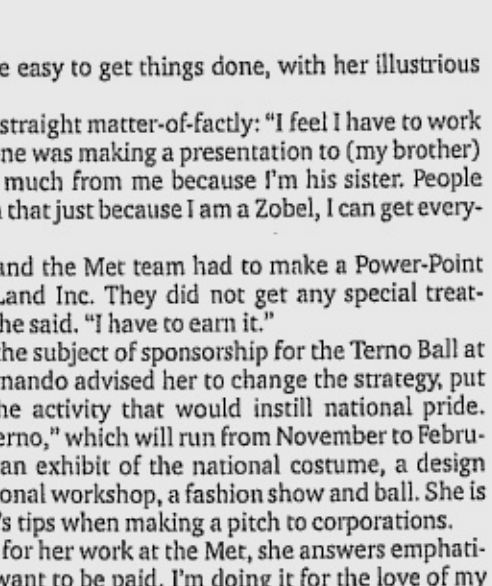
"The criss-cross detail on the bodice reflects not only the Grecian goddess trend but, more so, Hellenistic elements. The butterfly sleeves are European in influence. The *terno* is the distillation of the *traje de mestiza,* which we wrongly call the Maria Clara."

The top and skirt matched and became more streamlined, resulting in a neoclassical style. The *terno* is a take-off from this tradition. Zippers freed the wearer from cumbersome closures.

Manalo further describes the *terno* as a *tour de force* of continuous embroidery:

"It crystallizes the designer's genius. He's taken a color from the bodice and carried it over to the skirt. That's the essence of *terno*—the matching of top and bottom. The silk gazar, duchesse satin, and luxurious fabrics associated with couture is the introduction of the global element," says Manalo. "Like other traditional aspects of our culture, the *terno* is a repository of our aspirations. A *terno* is necessarily a showpiece. You will pour your dreams into it. It's meant to be showstopper. In Bea's *terno*, Pepito is riding on aspirations."

Participants in "The Matchless Terno" exhibit include Manila-based designers and *modistas* and *modistos* from Vigan, Iloilo and Zamboanga. The exhibit is being mounted in cooperation with the Bench/Pinoy Lab Project.



SM DEPARTMENT STORE Goes Digital with Kodak

HAVE YOU noticed that more and more people now have digital cameras? Or keep their well-loved photos stored in their computers rather than in photo albums? Some even enjoy the luxury of printing their photos from their offices or at home already. These are just some of the services brought about by the digital advancement in imaging.

Kodak and SM invite all picture fanatics to experience the latest developments in imaging through the Digital Festival to be held at Kodak Express Networks in SM department stores from October 1 to 31, 2003.

There are 17 SM Department stores located in almost all parts of the country – Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao – and all these stores carry a Kodak Express Network store inside the department store, making Kodak more accessible to its consumers.

Ten stores that have gone digital now have on-site mini-labs and therefore can offer a number of digital services to their consumers. Even if not all of the Kodak Express Networks in SM department stores have their own digital labs, all 17 outlets can accept digital services. There is, however, a slight price difference in the services from each Kodak store. Moreover, Timmy Jayme, Kodak Marketing Operations Manager for consumer imaging assures consumers that slowly, all 17 stores will become fully digital.

This digitization is definitely a treat to all those who love to take pictures as the event will showcase Kodak's capabilities in digital imaging. SM shoppers who visit the Kodak stores will get the chance to experience this digital advancement for themselves and will discover that there are many ways to keep your memories alive.

Digital camera users no longer have to carry their cameras around when they share their photos with their friends and families. Drop by any Kodak Express Network in your favorite SM department store and discover how Kodak can instantly have your digital shots printed like any ordinary film. Furthermore, with just P50.00 you can get your own picture CD where you can store your most treasured moments.

For those who want to reproduce their favorite photos but don't have the negatives, you can have your images scanned in your selected Kodak Express Networks and either have it printed on Kodak paper or save it in your own Picture CD.

With the emergence of the MMS phones, Kodak also has the capabilities to print photos straight from your phones. Called 'Beam To Print,' this service was made possible through Kodak's partnership with Nokia. By simply bringing your MMS phones to your favorite Kodak Express Network, you can print your captured moments on your phone.

What's more is that you can have your digital prints with templates, stickers and other printing options.

By allowing Kodak to print your digital photos, you are sure to get superior value for your money and longevity with your photos from Kodak and SM.

Current digital consumers are having their photos printed in their office with the use of the inkjet photo printers and ink. Aside from cost, your photos will be printed with poor quality. Inkjet prints can get smeared and can fade easily. With Kodak, you can be confident of the quality because your pictures will be processed using Kodak Royal paper which is guaranteed to last a lifetime.

Actually, this kind of photo printing tends to be more expensive while digital printing provides better quality and is not as expensive as it's perceived. In fact, it costs almost the same as having traditional 135 photos printed.

Don't be left behind the pack. Experience the digital change with Kodak today. Visit any Kodak Express Network in your favorite SM department store and be part of the Digital Festival.

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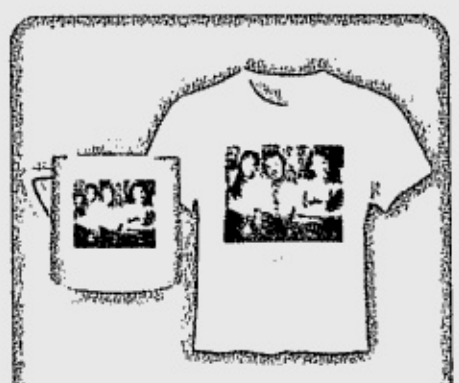

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Kodak digital cameras will be showcased in the festival so that SM customers can see and examine for themselves Kodak EasyShare cameras that range from CX models to DX and LS models.

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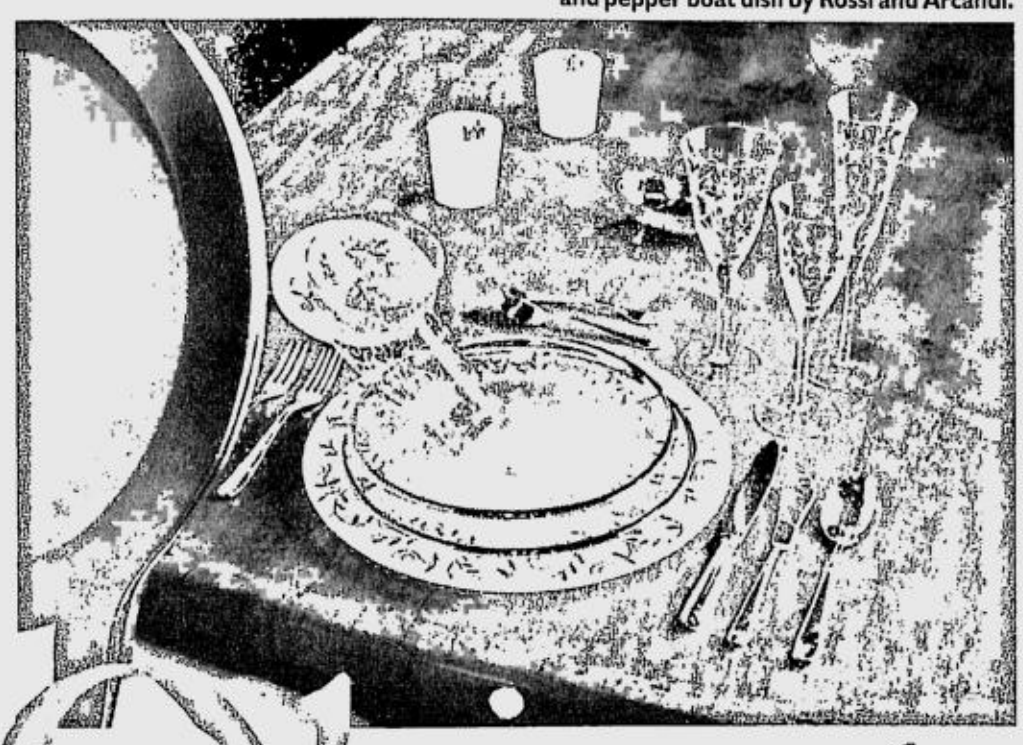


Mentxaka's success is proof that Manila's discerning set was starved for a local source of the finest silver, crystal, china, furniture, and fabric

DOODY Tuason. "Style is not studied. It's how you put yourself together, how you want the world to see you. It's living the way you want to and not according to someone else's plan."

Objects of desire

By Meluchi A. Rivera, *Contributor* • Photos by Patrick Uy

STERLING silver champagne bucket, Ettore Sottsass sterling silver candlesticks by Del Conde are set atop the Philippe Starck Chair and blue curtain fabric by Simonetta Fumagalli.

MENTXAKA, which has made its mark as the repository of elegance, refinement and style, now has more objects of desire to offer the desirous.

"We've accessorized a few homes, and we're happy that our clients love what they've bought from us, and come back for more," says owner Lourdes "Doody" de Tuason, the intrepid spirit who, two years ago, saw the need for a store of the ultra-luxurious. Mentxaka's success is testimony to how Manila's discerning set was starved for a local source of the finest silver, crystal, china, furniture, fabric and other décor.

Fresh from trips to the artisan centers of Europe, Tuason speaks excitedly about her new line from the Italian house IVV (can you say 'Ivuvoo?'), which is "very hot" among the chi-chi sets of Europe and the US. "The designs are elegant but innovative," she notes, explaining the brand's appeal. "The designs take off from traditional forms but tweak the materials, colors or shapes."

IVV's items have a hip, modern edge, yet can hold their own alongside the most traditional dinnerware and stemware. Examples include the Aria line of dinnerware, which flout tradition by using glass instead of porcelain while still sporting the very traditional platinum hand painting along its rim. The geometric Terra line takes this further with its mottled surface. The Gelosia line of crystal wine and water goblets sport bold colors, such as imperial red. "You can combine them with classic or rustic glasses to create different looks," Tuason suggests.

The search

She discovered IVV while leafing through Italian Architectural Digest. Fascinated by the classic but cutting-edge designs, she wrote to the editor where the products were sourced. Soon enough, the shopaholic Tuason was in the "middle of nowhere" in the Tuscan region, looking for IVV's factory. "Fortunately, it was near the outlets," she says.

Mentxaka's stable of more established brands includes silver pieces by del Conte, Cassetti, Rossi & Arcandi; fabrics by Simonetta Fumagalli; sconces and lighting fixtures by P&P; and more recently, chairs in gold and silver leaf by Boffi.

Most are hand-made by craftsmen who observe centuries-old traditions of excellence.

"I want to carry only the best," explains Tuason, one of Manila's most stylish women, needless to say. "Even when you travel, you cannot just find these things in, say, Crate & Barrel."

Her love for fine things shows in how any conversation with her can easily shift from society gossip to a discussion on the alluring qualities of silver. "It's really wonderful, how it reflects light and picks up the color of everything around it," she notes.

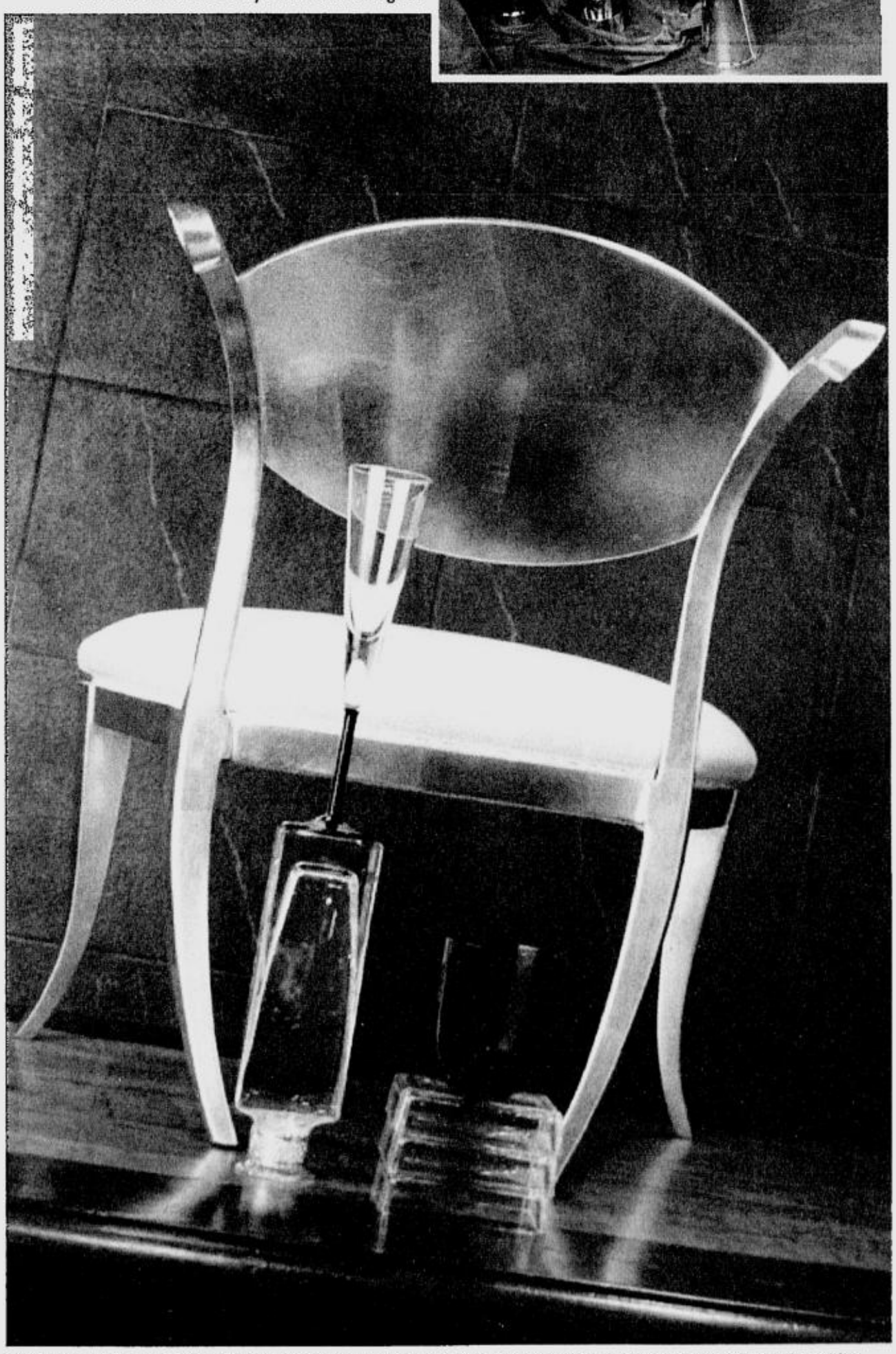
She is hard put to choose a favorite from her latest collection, and it can be said that her spirit is behind everything inside Mentxaka—so involved is she in the process of selecting her wares. She knows every single item she has purchased from an artisan family, and recalls each little shop in every obscure town she has set foot in.

"Everything here has a bit of history in it; a piece of the artisan who created it," she says.

Tuason makes light of her business sense, but her unerring eye for design and quality has made this store—tucked as it is in a discreet corner of Pasong Tamo Extension—as distinctive as the market it serves. "I buy as if (the items) are all for myself. That way I don't worry if they're sold or not, because I might want to keep them, anyway," she laughs.

At the risk of mixing metaphors, even the not-so-average Joe, who finds himself in Mentxaka, may feel like he has fallen through the looking glass ... onto the lap of luxury.

Mentxaka is located at Unit C1-A Karrivin Plaza, 2316 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati City. Tel. 843-5816.



SET in front of the Angelina chair by Boffi are Gallassia clear flute with black stem, Gelosia red wine glass and tumbler, Terra antipasto serving dish.

Sometime in December 2003, transiting Pluto begins to oppose both the Sun (head of state) and Neptune (social aspirations) of the national horoscope. A class of people will manifest a willful effort to replace the presidency

Forecast for the 4th quarter 2003 and 1st quarter 2004

By Georgina C. Solina, *Contributor*

FASTEN your seatbelts as we go on a roller coaster ride through the last quarter of 2003 and first quarter of 2004. Money will still be tight by yearend and the May elections may be postponed as a result of further social divisions. Call this turbulent journey on the two airwaves of Saturn and Uranus—both ruling planets of Aquarius—Purge and Merge. With the aid of Pluto's powerful transformative force, we will undergo cleansing of psyches through the rest of the year and onto the next, as the healing planet Chiron leads us to an encounter with the Divine.

Epidemics

Clearly, we are a very sick nation.

The forecast for October 2003 indicates increased incidence in diseases transmitted through unprotected sex, which could spread in the manner of the dreaded AIDS.

We are No. 3 in the world in shabu addiction and No. 3 in graft and corruption in Asia. But fear not, the healing energy we need is here. We are now at the gates of the Age of Aquarius which is represented by two air waves, indicating two kinds of healing: 1) personal love and 2) unconditional love. The healing will come when the left brain, which governs the masculine side of reason and logic complements the right brain, which governs intuition, a female quality.

To illustrate: a very rational male leader, when confronted by tough obstacles that obstruct economic progress, would declare the situation "hopeless." An intuitive woman leader would take up the cudgels, roll up her sleeves to work while trusting in Divine Providence to guide and protect her in the difficult quest. A miracle happens, she brings her people across the river of great hardships, including herself.

In Greek mythology, Hercules, the strongest man on earth, was challenged to clean the King's stables in a single day. The stables were filled with 40 years of animal dung. Hercules solved the gigantic problem by diverting the courses of two rivers, the Tigris and Euphrates (in modern day Iraq), making them flow through the stables in a great flood that washed out the filth in no time.

The Tigris and Euphrates are symbolic of the energy rivers or the two energy centers or chakras in our psychic system—the heart chakra (personal love), and the crown chakra (unconditional love).

Pluto is the farthest planet in the solar system, therefore operating on a higher frequency. It is designated by the Divine to bring sweeping changes to Earth. It is passing through Sagittarius at this time. Sagittarius is the ninth sign of the zodiac and governs the domain of God, religion, metaphysics, philosophies and sciences, judicial systems, higher education, long travels and the attitude of media (radio, TV, newspapers) towards the public.

Astrologically, Sagittarius is the House of God where the Center is located. In its archetypal function, Pluto renews, purges, reorganizes and readjusts the status of large masses of people.

Plutonian purging is expressed through deep subconscious forces in men's souls called the collective unconscious. People are in darkness now because there is a lack of remembrance of, or connection to, the Source.

It seems Filipinos need to be purged of moral depravity—sexual abuse, drug abuse, endemic graft and corruption many decades old, like the royal stables galvanized in horses' dung that Hercules had to wash away in order to cleanse them. Because transformative Plutonian energy is at their disposal, the reformist Filipino women presidents that led People Power 1 and 2, it is indicated, will triumph over the forces of darkness.

Due to weakened peso, most Filipinos are now changing, in terms of perceptions and attitudes. They are also developing an interest in the paranormal, inner mind. studies, and meditation techniques—in general, they are searching for truth via mystical sciences, one of which is in-depth astrology.

The result is renewal of the soul. Negatively produces disorientation, psychosis, obsession, fanaticism, suicides, and institutionalized violence. The need for healing past hurts which stem from hate, fear, resentment, and unforgiveness is absolutely necessary to survive the onslaughts of purgation.

Pluto will hover above the Galactic Center from February 2006 to November 2007. Pluto is believed to be the conduit through which the Divine inspires humans. The present conditions worldwide seem to reflect the transformative energies of Plutonian transits in people's horoscopes. We are currently witnessing changes in long-distance travel, largely caused by terrorism generated by intensified conflict between religions and political systems. Next we will see a changing of attitudes towards the extraction and use of mineral resources, particularly oil, which is the dominant issue in most terrorist activities.

Attacks

Locally, there will be attacks against the ruling class, and other outrages. Scandals in the home life, abounding premarital sex among the restless young, spread of sex-related diseases, general breakdown of health and upheaval in population statistics are indicated. However, the last quarter of the solar return chart of 2003, which covers April-May-June 2004, will improve (Jupiter in 4th house of home). Stock market indices will rise as Jupiter, the greater fortune planet, moves into the 2nd house of finances. An improved economic situation will be evident.

For 2004, we will have to focus on the coming crisis involving the national government. Sometime in December 2003, transiting Pluto will begin to oppose both the Sun (head of state) and Neptune (idealism and social aspirations) of the national horoscope. The planetary opposition between Sun and Pluto will be a difficult process, as it tends to disrupt energies at the receiving end. At this time, it refers to the Sun, which represents government leadership.

Because the Sun is sandwiched between Neptune and Pluto, the country will be split into two classes of people. On one hand, those most likely led by militant leftist groups and disgruntled politicians emitting sinister Plutonian vibrations will manifest a compulsive and willful effort to replace the incumbent presidency with a military junta. On the other hand, a Neptunian class of people will mount concerted appeals for unity and peace.

With Chiron in the 12th house, Filipinos as a race have come to fulfill a high purpose, and a series of encounters with negative forces will push them to mature faster, especially the embattled national leadership.

We speculate that in early 2004, the enemies' weapons will be blunted. Because when transiting Pluto starts to oppose Neptune sometime in February 2004, Neptune—which embodies Filipino idealism and mystical tendencies—will be activated. Neptune rules Pisces on the 4th house cusp of the national chart. This indicates that Filipinos can build the future on past traditions.

Uranus conjunct Chiron in the 12th house symbolizes Pentecostal time. On the first Pentecost after the Ascension of Christ, the fire tongues of the Holy Spirit was experienced by some devoted Christians. A similar Chiron healing event will occur at this time in early 2004, making Filipinos more spiritual.

Polls postponed?

A merging of the once quarreling, gossipy, disruptive social classes indicates an approach to oneness at last. We will not discount the presence of militant cynics, critics and noise-makers, in addition to the legitimate opposition. The 2004 elections may be postponed to avert a stormy exercise. Instead, in February or March as the momentum for change that heals disunity accelerates, a plebiscite may be held to ratify the amended constitution.

This will usher in transition to a new form of government. The economic indices will get a sudden boost in April and the healing of the islands will manifest faster as more women feel empowered to rise and take charge of highly sensitive government positions such as those vacated by men charged with corruption.

The women will rise with Pluto opposing Neptune to reverse the decay of old institutions-to begin with, unkempt schools, courts of law, and overcrowded jails.

We will go through some very difficult times, temporarily, as we let go of the old and welcome the new. New doors will open as old ones close, relationships will improve, diseases will be cured in spectacular ways. Let us appreciate the lessons as they come.

More than just eye candy

By Meluchi A. Rivera, *Contributor*

THE ROW of colorful cakes, pastries and other desserts are the first things to greet patrons of Bizu's Greenbelt Café. They are like magnets reeling in hapless passers-by. They have put the patisserie firmly on the epicure's map, right from the day its first outlet opened in April 2002. Indeed, so coveted are its Opera, Baba and Amour cakes, especially among women, that during Valentine's and Mother's Day, lines of earnest suitors and harassed husbands form outside Bizu's doors.

From the walls of shocking purple and yellow, to the pastel shades of the macaroons and cakes, Bizu's sweet offerings are true eye candy, and unabashedly cater to feminine tastes. It's a calculated marketing ploy, explains Audrey Tanco, Bizu's head of marketing. "Women are known for craving sweets. They come here to enjoy our cakes, and then the men are drawn in, because they see the pretty women eating here. Or the ladies bring their dates."

PHOTO BY ROMY HOMILLADA

Bizu's sleek look and superior products bely the fact that it is not a foreign franchise, but a home-grown concept wrought from Anabel Tanco's combined love of food and travel. "The concept is French-inspired, but we developed our own recipes. A lot of research and trial and error went into them," says Audrey who, with her brother, assists dad Arturo Jr. and mother Anabel in running the restaurant.

The Greenbelt outlet marks Bizu's crossover from dessert station to full-blown café, with meals offered from 7 a.m. to midnight. The menu bursts with choices to please even the most demanding diner. There are breakfast offerings of eggs with pate and gravlax; tea-time staples of sandwiches, puff pastries and quiches. Lunch and dinner patrons can opt for light fare of tartines (open-faced sandwich), pastas and salads, or have a full-course meal of appetizer, soup and entrée with a choice of wines by the glass or bottle. Then of course, all meals here must end with dessert.

While Bizu is tagged as a French café and patisserie, the menu does not feature strictly French cuisine, but includes dishes aimed at the Filipino palate. There is an extensive pasta line, for instance. Among the entrees, the US Angus prime rib steak shares stellar billing with the grilled yellow fin tuna with ponzu sauce. There is even classic cochinillo (roast pork), served whole (good for about 20) or in individual portions.

Our interview with Tanco starts over late merienda on a rainy afternoon and proceeds well into dinner time. We try no less than six dishes (including an hors d'oeuvres sampler) and three desserts. Amid this heady array of tastes and textures, a few dishes manage to stand out. The vol-au-vent dishes are must-trys, if only for Bizu's outstanding version of this flaky, savory pastry shell. We ask for the miniature mushroom version which is wonderfully earthy; and the full-sized portion with oxtail simmered slowly in a rich sauce of red wine and tomatoes. Both are winners.

Then there is the smoked fish pan bagnat, a well-thought-out sandwich of smoked fish and egg slices balanced by tart olives, anchovies, tomatoes and lettuce on whole wheat bread. Among the entrees, Bizu's take on the venerable duck a l'orange is a commendable version of the classic French dish.

"We like to think that Bizu offers a mix of the traditional and the new," Tanco notes by way of describing the selection. "We have dishes that are very traditional and strictly French. But we have others that are a product of much research and collaboration."

As for the desserts, it is easy to see what the fuss is all about. Bizu's cakes are usually multi-layered confections—the better to break down the defenses of even the most resolute dieter. Take the case of the Amour cake, which temps not just with its Valrhona orange chocolate mousse, but also has a layer of fudge brownie and another of crème brulee.

So what to expect from a store that looks like a candy box? At Bizu's Greenbelt outlet, we learn that there is much to enjoy and experience, beyond just eye candy.

ENAT women are forever young

FOREVER young-looking. Active. Attractive.

These best describe Prof. Anna, Doc Gloria, and Ms. Chit, three exemplar women honored by ENAT Natural Vitamin E, a natural Vitamin E brand manufactured and marketed by MEGA Philippines, for being able to naturally preserve their youth and their vigor and mobility in their everyday lives through a healthy lifestyle and an affirmative outlook in life.

Here are their inspiring real-life stories:

The rewards of teaching the young

Professor Anna Maria Gloria Soriano-Ward commands respect from his students by simply beaming a beautiful smile. Projecting a dynamic, vibrant and approachable image of an educator and a colleague, Prof. Anna is one of the well-loved teachers at the College of Science of the University of Santo Tomas (UST). She is also the pontifical university's director of the Public Alumni Affairs Office (PAAO).

Born in 1961, Annette, as she is fondly called by friends and family members, started flashing her contagious smile as early as nine years old when she joined a theater group, Comedia, and dances in a weekly children's show on television.

"I entered theater and television at a very young age. There, I was trained to smile a lot while performing and I guess I've brought that habit until now. It's a sincere gesture on my part - to be able to make people feel comfortable around you because of your smile," she articulates.

Prof. Anna earned her degree in Education at UST where she was eventually offered to practice her profession. After two solid decades of teaching experience, she was promoted as director of the PAAO two years ago to handle the university's alumni affairs.

Now in her early 40s and happily married to a Chinese-Filipino, this mother of four, whose eldest is 19, and youngest, 13, attributes the teaching profession as the reason on why she looks way younger than her age.

"I guess being around young men and women really makes you think young and feel young," says Prof. Anna. "Sometimes I even find myself eating with my students at the canteen instead of joining my colleagues at the faculty or a little chat with them along the corridor or wear comfortable the beaded trinkets they made for. With that I feel young and feel good."

Always seeing the happier note of things, Prof. Anna reveals: "I make sure that I keep my sense of humor in everything that I do. I enjoy delivering jokes inside the classroom. Humor is a powerful force that keeps my students listening throughout my lectures. They can see me as someone who they can learn and laugh with."

At the PAAO, this ENAT Natural Vitamin E forever young woman likewise keeps the humor going around her staff. She relates that when she was still new in the position, she made it a point that her staff will have the same enthusiasm she has in her work. She integrates the principle of collaborative management, to work as a team and give credit to who it is due.

Aside from her cheerfulness and radiant personality, this simple and down-to-earth woman is rich with the virtue of patience. "Educating people needs a lot of patience. Without patience, your job will stress you out because this profession entails so much hard work and interaction people coming from all walks of life," explains the professor.

Asked about her thoughts on aging, this ENAT Natural Vitamin E forever young woman says, "I know I cannot escape aging-and I am not afraid of it. But that doesn't mean I don't have to grow old graciously."

Smiling is just one of the secrets to that youthful look for Prof. Anna. According to her, washing her face with soap and water, applying moisturizer and occasional trips to the dermatologist as her ways to pamper her skin. She also walks around a lot in their subdivision as a form of her exercise

Avoiding fatty foods is one of her main concerns when it comes to food. And she never drinks cold water or soft-drinks, only warm water. To regain her strength and vitality, Prof. Anna is a regular user of vitamins E, C and calcium and she would rather devour herself with different kinds of fruits than taste any vegetable.

But the best of all these, Prof. Anna owes her youthful glow to her family, friends and all the people around her who makes her feel good about herself.

The birth of life on her hands

It is those midnight calls when a patient's bag suddenly breaks, hours-long labor of would-be mothers, and unwanted caesarian operations that make the profession of 37-year-old Dr. Gloria Macaso-Samson tough, taxing, and exposed to fast aging.

"My job is very unpredictable, every step of the procedure should be done with great effort to avoid complications. It is a very stressful work with a very unique reward-witnessing the beginning of a new life," shares Doc Gloria, an obstetrician-gynecologist for four years now at the Cardinal Santos Medical Center (CSMC) in Greenhills, San Juan.

Aside from her demanding profession, Doc Gloria tries to take care of her family-her two kids - Stuart, 8 and Sandra, 5 - and her husband, Dr. Lyndon Samson, who is an internist-pulmonologist at St. Luke's Medical Center in Quezon City. Married for nine years, Doc Gloria assures her family of her time, love, care and attention.

To express love for her family, this ENAT Natural Vitamin E forever young woman discloses that she clears her Wednesday schedules to fetch her son and daughter from school and make herself available if the children would ask her to treat them out. On Sundays, they go to church to hear Mass and then at home, she performs her duties as a wife and a mother to her well-loved family.

Prior to her marriage, Doc Gloria graduated with a degree in Medical Technology at the Far Eastern University-NRMF Medical Center in Fairview and took up Medicine at the same university before she enrolled herself for residence training at the CSMC.

Despite the challenges she face at work, the petite Doc Gloria manages to keep herself beautiful with a flawless skin and slim shaped body. "Since my job requires so much of my time," Doc Gloria says. "I see to it that I pamper myself with a good sleep for at least seven hours a day and more or less than an hour of brisk walking around the village to keep me fit."

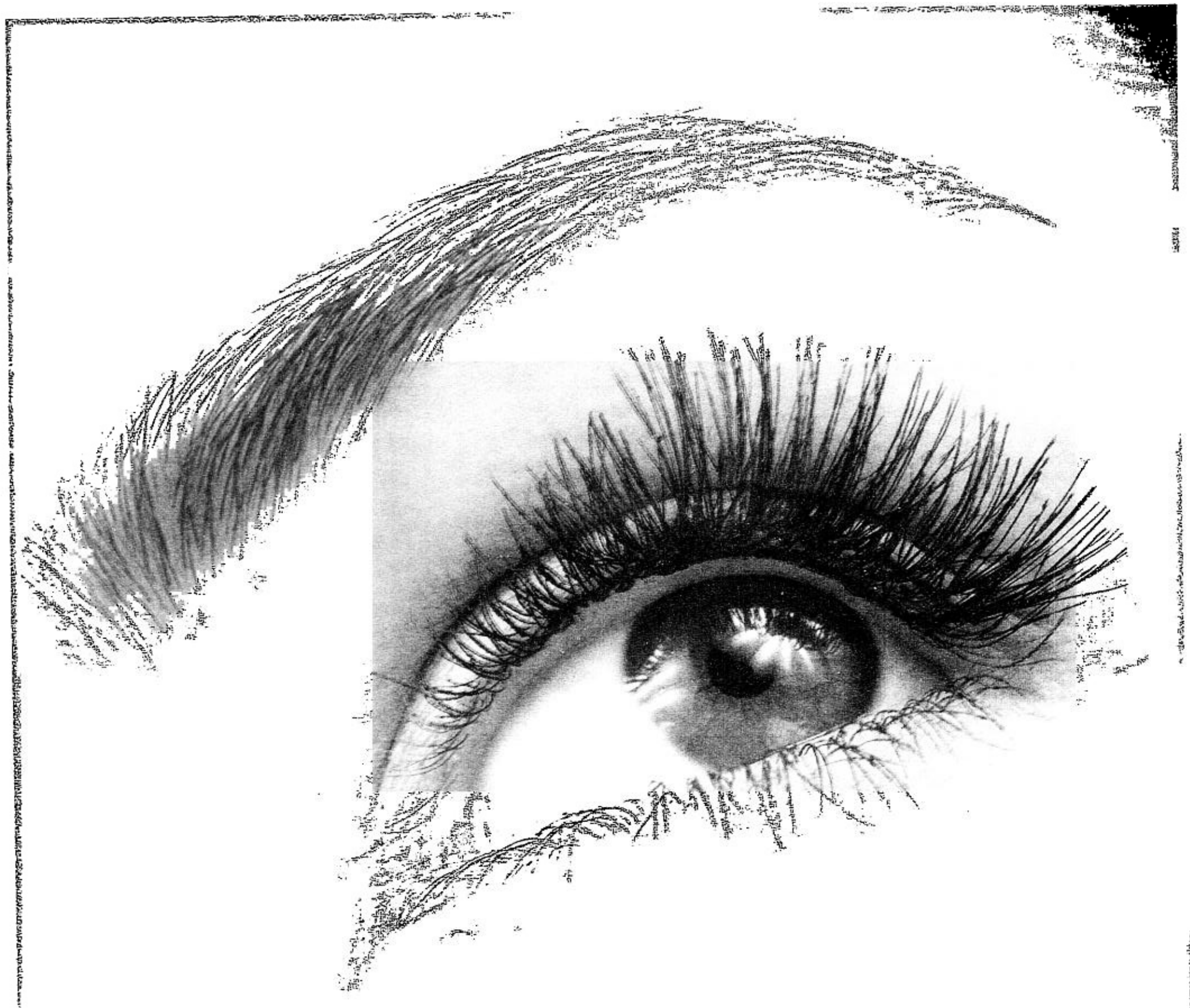
Like Prof. Anna, she uses only soap and water as her beauty regimen. She also visits a dermatology clinic for a monthly prick and steamer. For her daily make-up, she wears a light colored lipstick, a slight brush of her blush-on and eyeliner to look naturally beautiful.

"Aging is imminent, it will happen but it would be better if you could slow it down." She believes that pollution in the environment, lifestyle, daily habits like smoking or drinking alcohol and your perception in life cause aging.

To avoid wrinkles at an early age, Doc Gloria advises young people to keep a clean living and avoid having vices. Keeping a good diet and hygiene also helps slow down aging. She adds that she has been eating different kinds of fruits and vegetables, as well as taking vitamins C and E since she was a kid because her mother imparted on her that foods we take are good for our bodies but it would be better if there would be supplements.

A positive outlook and disposition in life further contributes in preserving youth. "We should be satisfied with what we have because if we are not contented with our achievements, we will have to work to have more and more until you found yourself in pains and problems it's better to always look on the brighter side of life," Doc Gloria stresses.

ADVT



Let's talk

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Let's talk
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ÉLAN

Beauty boards for junkies

These virtual communities are perfect sources of information on the latest-and the truth-about skincare and makeup

ILLUSTRATIONS BY STEPHBRAVO

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

I'M A beauty junkie and I love poring over news on the creams, glosses and colors of the season.

For many women like me, these magazines are virtual bibles that tell us what to put on our bodies, from shampoo to lip gloss. Of course I have often been stuck with a jar of makeup that I would never finish after the initial high has worn off. Truth is, though often described in superlatives, majority of the products we read about in magazines are freebies sent to editors.

As for celebrity endorsers, most of the time they don't really use the brands they swear by. It is just a clever marketing ploy devised by cosmetic companies, who are often in good terms with the celebrities' stylists and the beauty editors.

Raves and rants

I eventually got tired of believing everything I read, and though I still enjoy magazines, I no longer take every word as absolute truth. Because I also spend a lot of time on the Internet, I somehow discovered a secret meeting place for beauty junkies like me—the beauty boards. I cannot remember how I chanced upon them, but now I check them on an almost daily basis.

There are two major boards out there that have been invaluable to my education on skincare and makeup. There's beautybuzz.com (click on message boards) and makeupalley.com, which has separate boards for makeup, fashion, and skincare. From these I have gotten precious tips and discovered amazing products that I would never have heard of otherwise.

I know it sounds ridiculous, but after I check my mail everyday, I read the boards. There are at least a hundred new topics tackled everyday; I read only the ones I'm interested in, of course, and it takes me all of 15 minutes.

For those who are not familiar with message boards, these are small communities of people who share the same interests. There is no joining fee, and you get to interact with people from all over the world.

The beauty boards not only offer honest opinions on certain products; they also have what we call "off-topic" discussions. We discuss books, current events, and anything under the sun. It is not a live chat, either, so people respond at their own convenience.

Likewise, we conduct a lot of polls. For example: "What is the best sheer red lipstick?" From the answers, certain brands and colors will stand out. A person with dry skin can ask for suggestions on low-end moisturizers, or a person with oily skin can ask for ideas on foundation that stays put. We have what we call "rants" for products that suck, as well as "raves" for products that have surpassed expectations.

Favorite things

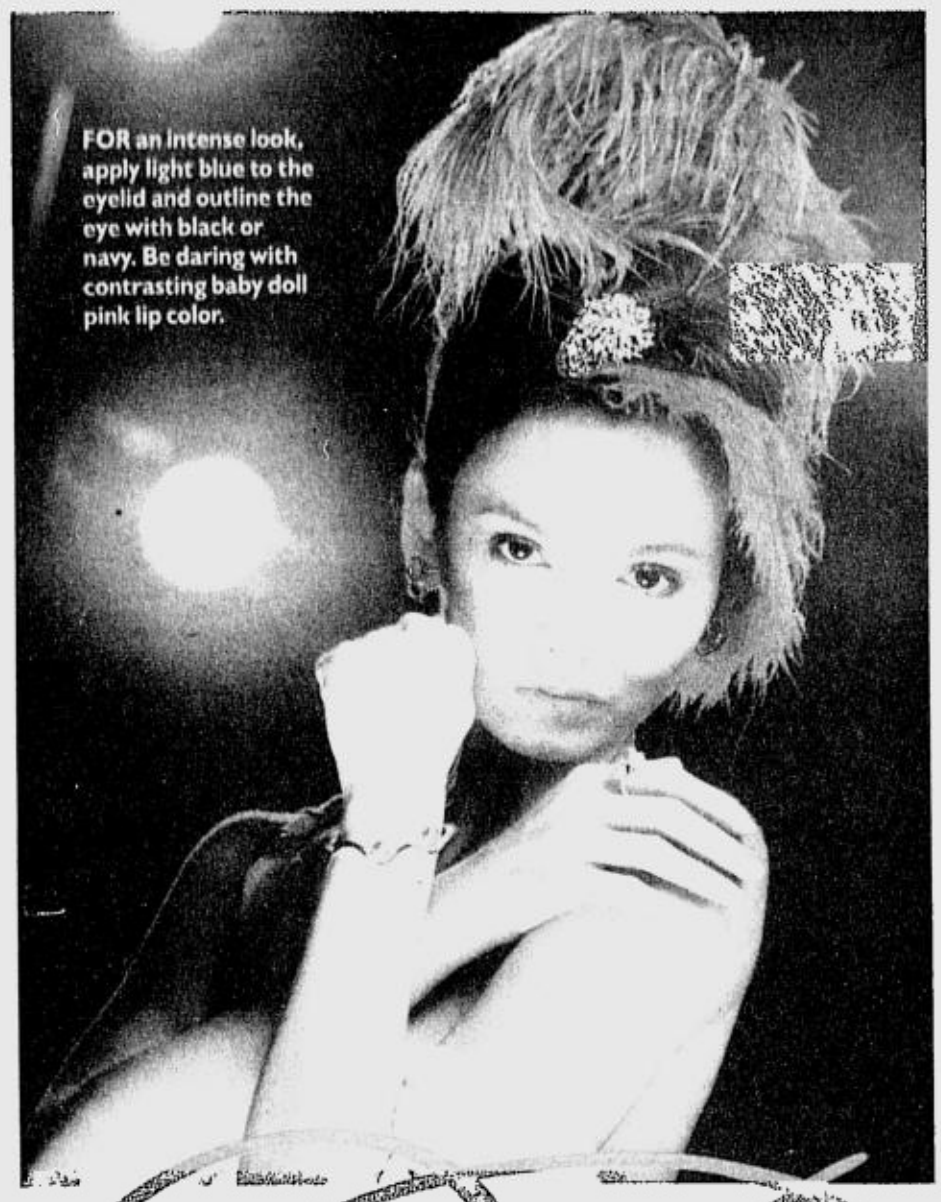
Among the consistent favorites are Prescriptives foundations, Chanel Glossimers, MAC paints, Bobbi Brown Gel Eyeliner, and Nars blushes.

The thing I love about the boards is that these beauty fanatics will research every ingredient, detail every allergic reaction, and give very descriptive opinions on every product they've tried. So it's almost impossible to get suckered into wasting your money on something that doesn't work. These are reviews from people who actually use the products they write about. From them, I discover the most obscure and wonderful things.

Take Na-PCA spray. This is a very inexpensive product that you can get at whole foods stores in the United States. It is a spray that attracts moisture to your skin. It sets makeup beautifully and retains moisture without adding oil. It makes the skin glow and look dewy!

Another great find is WTF (Who's the Fairest) cosmetics. They're an online company that makes the prettiest lipsticks, like my favorite Nectarine—which is the color of your lips but better. If you don't have that much money, boards also give home-made tips that really work. Case in point: a wildly popular mask is the Aspirin Mask. This is simply uncoated aspirin crushed with water to form a paste. Leave it on your face for five minutes and wash off. Aside from being a superb manual exfoliator, aspirin contains salicylic acid, which helps control breakouts. Of course if you're allergic to aspirin this might not be such a good idea. If you have very dry skin, try cold pressed extra virgin olive oil. A drop will go a long way and you will wake up with amazingly hydrated skin—that is, if you don't mind smelling like salad dressing.

The point is, there are many alternatives to expensive magazines when it comes to information on beauty. The Internet offers so much more for free. An added bonus is, you get to meet other junkies.



FOR an intense look, apply light blue to the eyelid and outline the eye with black or navy. Be daring with contrasting baby doll pink lip color.

Glamour PERFORMANCE LEVEL

Photos by Wig Tysmans • Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

MODELS: AMINA ARANAZ, ISABEL ROCES
JEWELRY: HEMM BY HANS BRUMANN
COSMETICS: CHANEL FALL-WINTER COLLECTION
LOCATION: STAR THEATER
SPECIAL THANKS: FRED AND LISA ELIZALDE, RINA VELOSO

NOWADAYS anybody who has taken a few workshops on applying the brands can be called a makeup artist. But few of them can be rightfully called real artists. Unknown to this current generation of fashion and magazine editors and younger clientele is Dennis (pronounced deh-nee) Tan, who has won major film awards for his work.

Since he was nine, Tan would paint his friends' faces using watercolors. But his very first experiment was shading his own eyes chartreuse.

After acquiring a degree in architecture and interior design from the University of Santo Tomas, Tan answered his true calling: styling. A natural in hair and makeup, he worked at the famous Budjiwara salon then went to London to study hair coloring and styling. Through connections, he ended up taking atelier courses in theatrical makeup at the Berlin and Opera Houses.

He came back in 1980 and teamed up with his friends Ruben Nazareth and Pedro (a.k.a Petussa) Lopez. They did fashion shows, pictorials and the famous Valera fashion awards. Tan did commercials, too, until the movies lured him. Director Peque Gallaga hired him for "Virgin Forest" and, since then, has done the makeup for all of Gallaga's movies. The first movie makeup award Tan and his teammates received was for "Shake, Rattle and Roll." In 1998, he received his makeup award for Abaya's "Rizal."

Instinctive

Many theater and stage directors say Tan has an instinctive understanding of character. He is Tessie Tomas' favorite, and Gary Valenciano has collaborated with him from the very start.

Tan says there are many factors that many "makeup artists" fail to consider, such as the quality of the film, the lighting, or the gels, which have an effect on the colors and textures of the makeup.

For this pictorial, Tan examines the clothes and matches the hair and makeup to complete each look. He has always favored Chanel for high fashion.

Denim-inspired

Some color palettes are inspired by fashions on the runway. One American brand took its cue from the '60s shaggy look and came out with creamy neutrals and feminine colors.

Another brand faithfully followed the holiday signature of rich, velvety fabrics with its fall-winter collection of mauves, berry and violets. Inspired by jewels and precious metals, a prestige brand used deep eye shades, and light-filled metallic shades for provocative lips.

Not to be outdone, Chanel's fall-winter collection also reverted to the retro black-and-white fashions and the denim revolution, both from the late '60s.

Star product is the Jeans de Chanel, a pressed powder eye shadow in four variations of blue, from lavender to black denim. The company based the concept on the study that the average American owned eight pairs of jeans. This augurs well for the Philippine market, where jeans and t-shirt are a staple.

Explained Dominique Moncourtois, international director of Chanel makeup creation: "We had in mind a powder that would look like woven material. The idea was to apply the denim manufacturing process to the world of makeup—both in effects and in colors. We chose denim for its rich associations. It is a timeless fabric a basic essential for every generation, combining the heritage of the past with modernity." According to Moncourtois, blue was a favorite color of Coco Chanel.

Luscious lips

Chanel's Quadra eye shadow is a compact that offers a series of effects—matte, powdered, satin and metallic. Color can be enhanced by applying with a cotton dipped in toning lotion. Finish with Extreme Cils Drama Lash Mascara with silico-protein, which improves the appearance of damaged lashes.

Chanel's lip colors are not only comfortable; they stay on even after meals. Its powder cream lipsticks come in shades close to the natural lip color. A favorite of celebrities is the Glossimer, a gel lip-gloss that lasts long because of the organic polymers, and is not gunky like other lip glosses.

SOFT and pink romantic lips in harmony with the ice blues

Theater directors say Tan has an instinctive understanding of character. He is Tessie Tomas' favorite, and Gary Valenciano has collaborated with him from the very start

EYES are intense, emphasized with midnight or navy, balanced with brilliant red lips.

Facing up to facials

By Martin Valdes
Contributor

SEVEN years ago, I was standing at the corner of two streets in San Lorenzo Village sipping a cocktail, when an unidentified flying object smashed into my face. I awoke an hour later inside the emergency room of a hospital as a doctor endeavored to reconstruct the bloody mess between my ears.

Apparently, a fight had erupted between two rival gangs attempting to debate intelligently by lobbing beer bottles at one another, and a stray missile had ended up bombarding my proboscis, knocking me out and lacerating my right nostril and upper lip. The doctor did an excellent and relatively painless job—thank God for morphine—and only a small scar remains as visible testament to that fateful night. Suffice to say, I have developed a phobia for gravity-defying Pale Pilsens, and a slight aversion to having my face touched by anyone.

So when I was told that this assignment would require my face to be physically handled by a stranger for about 60 minutes, I was not sure I could make it through without frothing at the mouth. Besides, weren't these —what do they call 'em—facials, one hundred percent feminine activity? Would any straight man worth his jock strap ever be caught dead paying good money for such a service?

The fact that this was to be a Dermalogica treatment did nothing to water down my resolve to reject the assignment outright and defy this burgeoning feminist movement threatening to overwhelm the last bastion of masculinity, the right of real men to wear bad skin with pride. So no, thanks, I began to say, I would not compromise my heterosexual values by allowing my whiteheads and blackheads to be eliminated, nor would I... Oh? I could have it for free? Cool. I confirmed for Tuesday.

Lifestyle check

After establishing the International Dermal Institute in the USA in 1983, Jane and Raymond Wurwand concluded that no available skin care line was suitable for use in their classrooms. The obvious solution was to develop their own brand, compatible with their exacting standards and the needs of skin care professionals who would be the brand's sole means of distribution. Thus was born Dermalogica. Fast-forward to present day, Dermalogica leads in the industry with innovative products that conventional manufacturers would never attempt to formulate. Technical jargon aside, the stuff they make is impressive in variety and quality.

Finally, I stood inside Essenses Aesthetics, a discreet treatment area on the sixth floor of Rustan's Makati, contemplating the immediate future. The place is a modest affair with a very Zen-like atmosphere, clinically clean and white, and with an array of skin care products on display, plus various pamphlets for one's perusal.

The therapist assigned to me, Sheryl, sat down and handed me a questionnaire—standard procedure, apparently. I began to confess the amount of water, coffee and alcohol I consumed on a weekly basis; whether I smoke; if I used soap to cleanse my face; how high my pain threshold was; was I claustrophobic; and so on. You know that sinking feeling you get when you visit the dentist and realize to your horror that you forgot to brush your teeth? That's how I felt through the almost 30 questions.

Fortunately for my sanity, Sheryl went on to explain how the information was just one of several ways Dermalogica got to know the client before they actually treated him or her. This "lifestyle check" helped the professionals at Essenses Aesthetics assess the client's needs, she said.

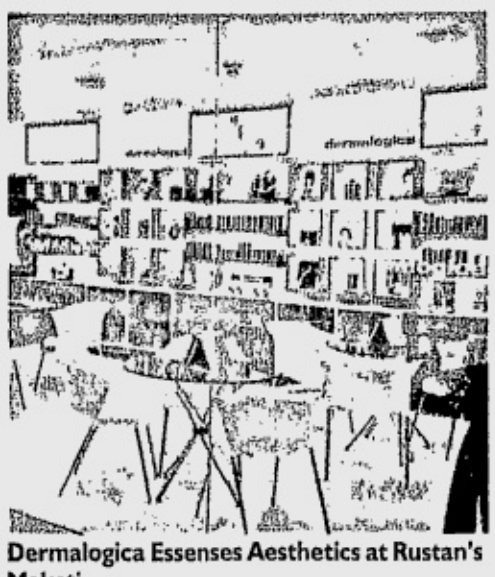
Given the data I had volunteered, Sheryl then informed me that I smoked too much, drank too much alcohol and not enough water, ingested too much fatty food, did not exercise regularly, and shaved with the wrong lotion, thus resulting in the poor condition of my skin. We had known each other for 10 minutes and she was telling me stuff that my girlfriend had tried to put across for months! Like Jesus in a lab frock, she smiled and assured me that everything was going to be all right. I had the nagging suspicion that if she could not save my skin, she was going to try and save my soul.

Chill out

I was led to a very cozy private therapy room at the back and, after doffing my upper garments into a locker, reclined into a comfortable chair not unlike those in a dentist's office. Then the touching began—not *that* kind of touching, but a silky smooth kind of facial pampering that was so soothing I dozed off a couple of times.

Sheryl was mapping my face. Dermalogica had rediscovered—apparently, it is rooted in an ancient Chinese practice—a process called face mapping, by which the fitness, or "happiness," as Sheryl put it, of several internal organs were determined as reflected on facial skin conditions. There are 14 zones that could be mapped, I was told. I struck out in about a dozen.

On account of the soporific comfort of her



Dermalogica Essenses Aesthetics at Rustan's Makati

hands massaging my face and the hypnosis induced by her voice, I found myself oscillating between sleep and rapt attention. She told me how badly my organs were doing: my heart was not happy, my liver was not happy, my stomach was not happy, my lungs were about to go on strike. I did wake up when she gleefully announced that my genitals were happy. We had known each other 30 minutes...

I was being given a dehydrated skin treatment. The next hour passed blissfully as Sheryl attempted to rectify 27 years of neglect. My skin was double-cleansed to remove impurities and scrubbed to remove dead surface cells. A relaxing massage followed by a customized mask was supposed to help calm and revitalize the skin. Finally, a moisturizer and a sun-defense product were applied to hydrate and protect my skin. The black heads, the white heads, and a few blemishes that I had assumed were moles, disappeared. It felt really, really good.

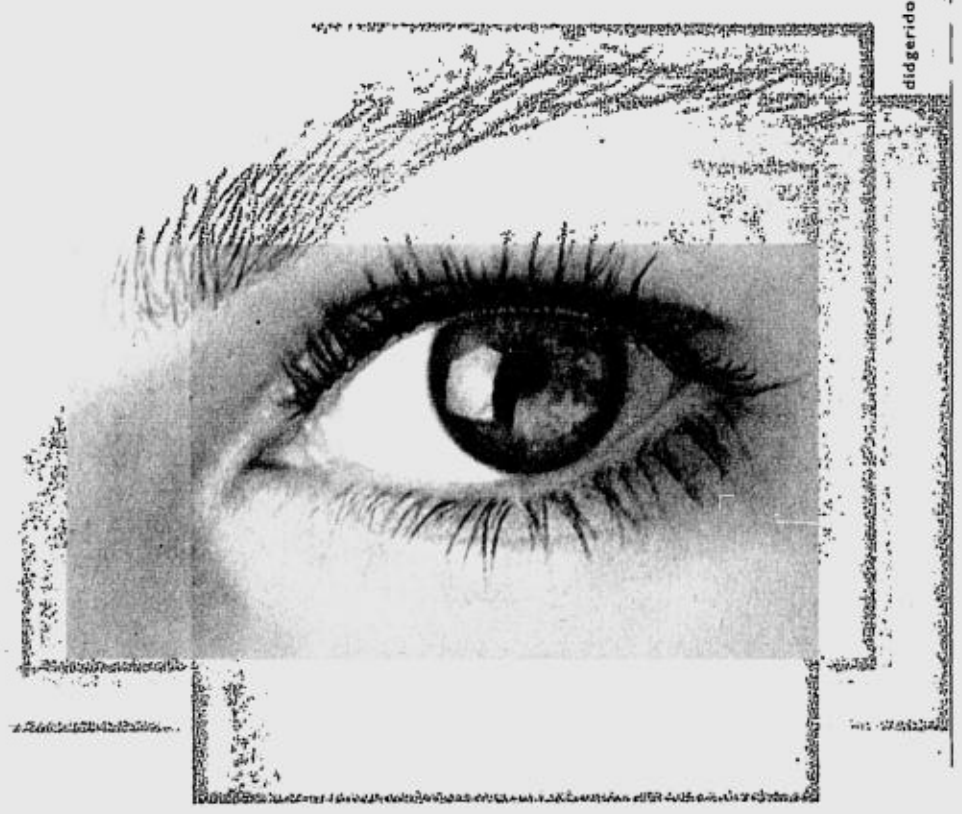
> Would any straight man worth his jock strap be caught dead paying good money for a facial

Now I sheepishly confess that I was a bit depressed when it was all over. Sheryl led me out to the waiting area where we first met, and handed me a prescription package with a few Dermalogica products intended for my further use. It is significant to note that they do not sell any of their products without prior professional consultation, not because they're trying to turn a profit, but because they believe in personalizing each and every treatment. I'm supposed to see her again in two weeks so she can monitor the rehabilitation of my face. That sounds weird, but I am looking forward to it.

There is something very Catholic about skin care—we transgress by habitually ignoring basic procedures, and we try to remedy this by going to clinics for quick fixes. Dermalogica aims to impress upon its clients that skin care is a lifelong practice that requires understanding and effort.

Check out Dermalogica products and a whole range of services at Essenses Aesthetics, 6th floor, Rustan's Makati. Bring your face.

didgeridoo))



Watch your eyes.

Four products from Sisley specifically designed to protect and treat the fragile areas around the eyes and lips.

Morning and Evening

Sisleya Eye and Lip Contour Cream. A powerful but extremely well tolerated anti ageing treatment which shows the ageing process with spectacular success.

Morning

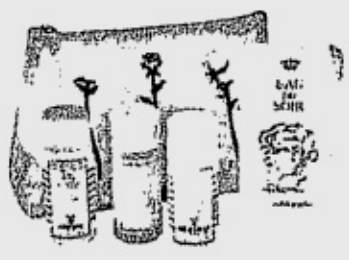
Botanical Eye & Lip Contour Balm. Cooling and comforting, its fresh gel texture acts on the bags and dark circles under the eyes, smoothing the skin and helping prevent dryness and small wrinkles.

Evening

Botanical Eye & Lip Contour Balm. Counters the problems caused by ageing by helping the epidermis regain firmness and elasticity.

The Finishing Touch

Botanical Concealer. A skin treatment and make up tool in one. Botanical Concealer not only resorbs bags and dark circles while masking imperfections, it also provides an ideal make up base.



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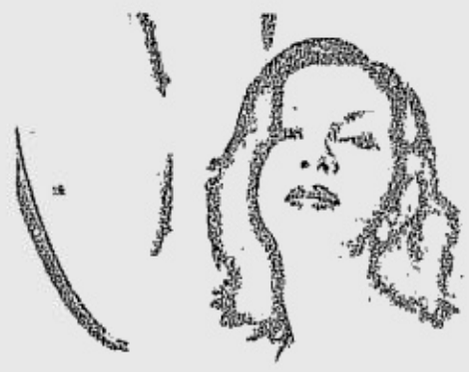
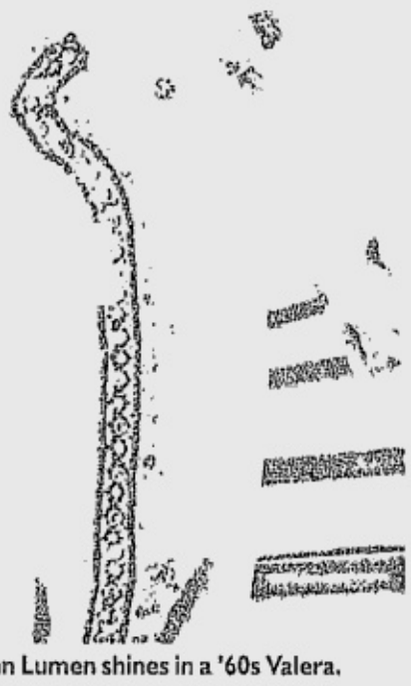
EASY DOES IT. Best bets from gentle makeup lines like Sisley are the smoothening eye shadows and pencils and emollient mascara. The bronzing powder gives a healthy glow. The Glossy Gloss is among the world's top 10 best lip glosses. Mary Ann Lumen wears Bvlgari's Allegra Caramelle necklace made of pearls, diamonds, blue topaz, pink tourmaline and citrine and Coriandoli bracelet of the same stones with peridot, iolite and amethyst.





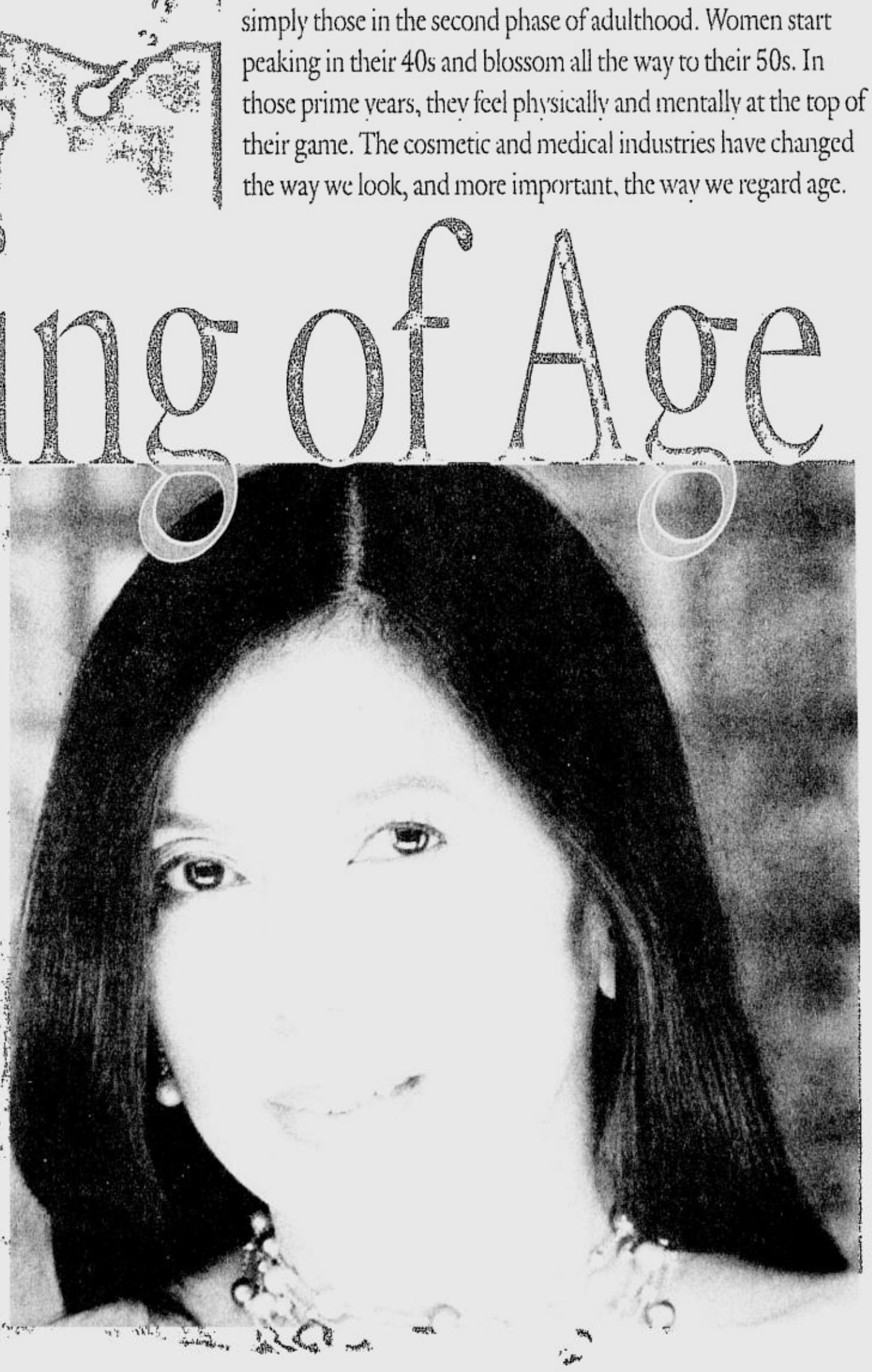
YOUTHFUL IN YELLOW. Mary Ann Lumen shines in a '60s Valera.

BOOMERS are reinventing the aging process. "Downaging" is a trend where maturity is being redefined. The 40s are the new 30s, and we no longer see 50-year-olds as midlifers but simply those in the second phase of adulthood. Women start peaking in their 40s and blossom all the way to their 50s. In those prime years, they feel physically and mentally at the top of their game. The cosmetic and medical industries have changed the way we look, and more important, the way we regard age.

Coming of Age

Photos by Nap Jamir, assisted by Butch Maddul
Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos

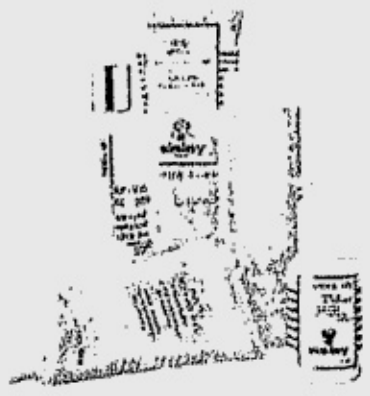
MAKEUP BY TOTO BAGAMASBAD AND JAIME RUBEN
MAKEUP SISLEY
VINTAGE RAMON VALERA AND NEW YORKER
JEWELRY BVLGARI
RESIDENCE OF ILOCOS SUR GOVERNOR LUIS SINGSON
SPECIAL THANKS: BECKY GARCIA AND CHEL SINGSON



HOLD THAT TIGER! Gov. Chavit Singson feeling frisky as a cub with kittenish Mary Ann Tinio?

LET YOUR SKIN DRINK IT IN. Wear makeup with treatment benefits to keep the skin looking young. Sisley's formulation contains the highest grade of plant extracts. Mary Ann Tinio wears Bvlgari's Luecea multi-strand necklace made of black and white pearls and diamonds in white gold and matching earrings.

Count Hubert, plants, & Sisley skin



She applied a heavenly, milky thing on my face, and my skin just drank it in. In a little while, I was glowing

By Ana A.S. Bitong
Contributor

IT was Friday but I wasn't looking forward to the weekend. Our theater company had decided to stretch its limits and compete with cinemas, showing its season play at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Plus, I have to squeeze in a makeover with Sisley, Rustan's newest skin-care and cosmetics line, and do a story on it.

After two shows, I scrubbed off my thick, stage makeup and was on my way to the store. By this time my skin was red, puffy, dry ... and protesting. At the store, the Sisley lady took all of one look and asked me to sit down and relax. She applied a heavenly, milky thing on my face, and my skin just drank it in.

Instantly rejuvenated, I badgered my Sisley magician with questions. It turns out Sisley is a family-owned business in Paris headed by Count Hubert and his wife Countess Isabelle. Their singular pursuit was for the best product that would nourish and improve the skin and impede the visible signs of aging.

Count Hubert devoted his efforts to creating a new and unique concept, Phytocosmetology: natural plant extracts and essential oils applied to cosmetology.

In just a little while, my skin was completely refreshed and glowing. My Sisley guru handed me the products that she had used on me.

Basics

Botanical cleansing milk with a hawthorn fine texture. A creamy emulsion that dissolves all make-up products (even heavy make-up) and gently eliminates impurities. It also helps reduce redness.

Gentle make-up remover for eyes and lips. A transparent lotion that ensures effective, yet mild, make-up removal from eyes and lips and preserves the suppleness of the eyelids and lips without risk of irritation.

Botanical floral toning lotion, alcohol free toner. Completes the makeup removal, decongests the skin, refreshes and tones, and prepares the skin for the appropriate treatment product.

Ecological compound. Fluid and fine-textured emulsion, easily and quickly absorbed. It supplies all the elements the skin needs to regain natural balance and helps skin rebuild its defense system. It has excellent healing properties; promotes collagen production; softens the skin; and helps protect it from environmental stress factors and pollution.

Coloring

Next came my makeover. The wonderful surprise was: Sisley's makeup line is an "extension" of the skin care:

Transmat-botanical cream makeup base with cucumber. For radiant, velvety, long-lasting matte finish. It revitalizes and moisturizes, and prolongs the action of the rest of the products.

Phyto-teint compact-botanical compact foundation. Enhances complexion, smoothes skin texture, and provides extreme comfort even to sensitive skin.

Transparent loose face powder with calendula extracts. Fine-textured, sheer loose powder with softening benefits.

Eye Shadows with botanical extracts. Powder eye shadow with softening, anti-drying and protective benefits.

Phyto-Mascara double action. Lengthens, strengthens and curls! (I swear it works even without an eyelash curler).

Double blush with botanical extracts. Gives a radiant, healthy glow while helping protect and soften the skin.

Hydrating long-lasting lipstick with calendula. Hydrating lip care with intense and glowing colors.

My Sisley makeover resulted in a natural, beautiful, and shimmery finale. I was also given an intensive night cream that is said to regenerate the skin, combat fine lines and wrinkles, and maintain skin firmness and suppleness; and a protective day cream containing marine extracts that promises to restore radiance and freshness and provide instant comfort to even the driest skin. Plus a couple of quick action masques—Botanical facial masque and Express flower gel to hydrate, tone, and revitalize.

I went back to the theater feeling light and refreshed. Inside Gloomsville, the rest of the cast gave me dirty looks. The backstage sometimes reminded me of a coal mine—dark, damp, and dreary—yet here I was, fresh and glowing!

My make-up felt light and didn't dissolve under the harsh stage lights. At home, I cleansed, toned, applied the ecological compound, the intensive night cream, and crashed!

The next morning, I trudged to the sink to prepare myself for yet another series of performances. Lo and behold—my skin! It was luminous, not red and puffy as usual.

Thoroughly psyched, I proceeded with Sisley's morning ritual: cleanse with buff and wash with facial gel. Mmmm. I could sense the beginning of an addiction! Next, toner and ecological compound. I must say, if I could invest in just one product, it would have to be this ecological compound.

When the weekend was over, I treated myself to a Sisley skin care program, including day creams and masques. My favorite is the Express Flower Gel with extracts of lily and iris. It is highly effective in preventing water loss, banishing fatigue and stress. It leaves the skin firmer, rejuvenated and, I must say again, glowing. The best part is, it only takes three minutes. Perfect for that killer day, at the end of which you still have to look fabulous.

The Sisley skin care addresses all concerns. I was told the best seller so far is the global anti-age cream, whose results are said to be spectacular. Women, I was also told, should start using this cream at age 30. Oh-oh ... panic time!

Awake to new skin

Photos by Jay Javier • Pictorial direction by Antonio Salac Santos
Model: Nicolette Bell • Hair and makeup: Eric Manigat

AS A self-confessed makeup and skin-care junkie, I'm always on the lookout for new stuff to try. Brands like Bobbi Brown and Crème De La Mer were once small independent companies that achieved "cult" status before they were purchased by cosmetic giant Estée Lauder. There are many lesser-known brands such as these that make excellent products but are not as widely known as their mega counterparts. Usually, they already have a burgeoning clientele composed of people in the know.

Among the products I have been eyeing for sometime now is Awake. Sold in specialty stores like Sephora and Neiman Marcus in the United States, this exclusive line has earned favorable reviews from magazines and celebrities alike.

Its earth-friendly recyclable packaging echoes Zen-like Japanese sensibilities that always makes me gravitate to their counters.

Luckily for us, Rustan's, the same store that brought us great brands like Prescriptives, Laura Mercier and Origins, is adding Awake to its roster of beauty lines.

Awake was launched in 1995 by the respected Japanese company Kose which has been a leading pioneer in skincare research and development since 1946. With Awake, they paired natural botanical ingredients with the most advanced technology available, to create a unique line. Both the skincare and makeup lines contain a minimum amount of preservatives and utilize plants and natural ingredients to formulate products that do not irritate the skin.

The marriage of high-tech Japanese innovation and Nature is always appealing to anyone who avoids chemicals and preservatives in both skincare and diet. The Awake line is so extensive that it is a physical impossibility to try everything. I have been lucky to sample some of the more popular items.

Deep Purity Cleansing Oil

The thought of slathering oil on my skin was frightening. At any rate, I massaged it on my unwashed face and, to my surprise, it later washed off easily. All I had left was a squeaky clean face that felt soft to the touch. There was no annoying scent, and none of the tightness I usually experienced with regular cleansers. I actually look forward to washing my face now.

Authority age release serum

This serum combines Ceramide 2, which helps replenish moisture, and Histidine, which supposedly stimulates collagen and elastin-producing cells. This product is supposed to visibly reduce fine-lines and sagging associated with aging. I have no aging concerns yet, and four days is not enough elicit proof of the claim. But as a lightweight moisturizer, this is pretty good. The literature suggests research based on the work of a Nobel prize-winning scientist so if you're one of those who would try anything to defy the ravages of time, this might be worth a try.

Vital Express

One of the most popular Awake products. It

Sold in specialty stores like Sephora and Neiman Marcus in the United States, this exclusive line has earned favorable reviews from international celebrity clients. Now it is available in the Philippines

is a patented Vitamin C powder that turns into liquid emulsion as you rub it into your skin. Everyone knows that Vitamin C is a superb anti-oxidant that improves the skin's clarity and radiance. Problem is, Vitamin C is not very stable and many companies have been trying to figure out ways to package it and still maintain its integrity. Vital Express comes in tiny vials so its stability and effectiveness is ensured. After just three days, my skin was really more even-toned. I had shied away from Vitamin C in the past because it always turned my super sensitive skin beet red. With Vital Express, I get a healthy-looking blush and none of the irritation I used to experience. I think the comfrey extract is what soothes the skin and prevents inflammation. I also like the matte result, though people with drier skins might want to follow up with a moisturizer as instructed.

Stardom is one of Awake's makeup lines. The colors are trendy and runway-inspired so don't expect matte beiges and nudes. Most of the Stardom line is shimmery with, for instance, eye shadow in colors like Gold and Amethyst. The lipsticks have a nice modern sheen, and the colors look fun and vibrant.

Stardom Mascara

This is supposed to give a "miracle finish" by adding length and volume to the lashes. The secret? A double-ended tube and a two-step process. On one end is the base coat with a curved brush that uses high-adhesion polymer sticks and fibers to give the illusion of longer, thicker lashes. On the other end is a waterproof top coat with a comb-brush to separate the lashes while adding deep gloss to the eyelashes. Maybe it was the Shu Uemura eyelash curler, but after applying one coat of each side on my lashes, they did seem much longer. And at the end of the day the mascara had stayed put. In my opinion, this is the mark of a good mascara. Who wants raccoon eyes? If mascara is your thing, this is a sound product. Aside from basic black, it comes in shades like Lapis and Onyx (bluish shades) that are great for evening wear.

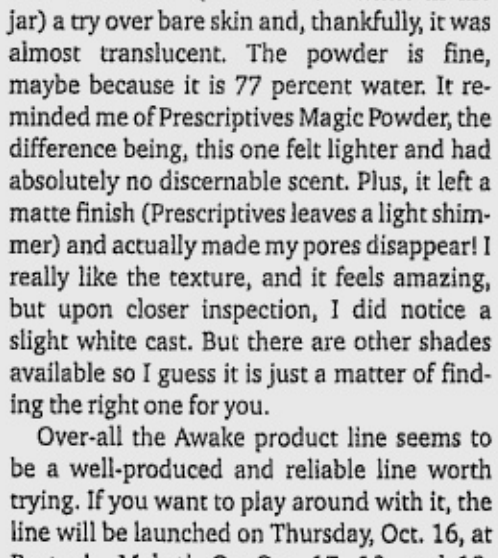
Stardom Loose Powder

This comes in what I call ice colors. I gave the "Venus Sea" (almost snow white in the jar) a try over bare skin and, thankfully, it was almost translucent. The powder is fine, maybe because it is 77 percent water. It reminded me of Prescriptives Magic Powder, the difference being, this one felt lighter and had absolutely no discernable scent. Plus, it left a matte finish (Prescriptives leaves a light shimmer) and actually made my pores disappear! I really like the texture, and it feels amazing, but upon closer inspection, I did notice a slight white cast. But there are other shades available so I guess it is just a matter of finding the right one for you.

Over-all the Awake product line seems to be a well-produced and reliable line worth trying. If you want to play around with it, the line will be launched on Thursday, Oct. 16, at Rustan's, Makati. On Oct. 17, 18, and 19, Satoru Yoshino, a professional makeup artist, will be around to do makeovers at the Awake counter.

Cherish Garcia-Hernandez

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com



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Guide to makeup products

REVIEW

By Cherish Garcia-Hernandez
Contributor

Don't Go to the Cosmetics Counter Without Me
By Paula Begoun

ALREADY on its sixth edition, "Don't Go to the Cosmetics Counter without Me" is a massive volume that basically reviews every cosmetic brand out there. It is written by syndicated columnist Paula Begoun, one of the first to tackle the issue of beauty counter rip-offs—for instance, how a wildly expensive product could have exactly the same ingredients as what one would find in the drugstore for a fraction of the cost.

Thus, she was also one of the first to educate the beauty consumer on how to choose products wisely, how to review the list of ingredients, the better to determine benefits that could be expected as well as spot potential irritants.

Begoun, who has appeared on shows like "Oprah" and "20/20," started out working behind cosmetic counters. Having battled with acne herself and never finding products that worked, she started doing her own research. Soon, she was getting into trouble from sending customers to other counters if she felt that what they needed was not the products she was selling.

Eventually, she decided to write this book, and two others—"The Beauty Bible" and "Don't Go shopping for Hair Care Products without Me." Now she has her own website (www.cosmetic-scop.com), newsletter, and make-up and skincare line.

Though her book does have a wealth of helpful information, I don't think it is wise to take everything she says as gospel truth. What started out as a noble undertaking has turned into a multi-million business for her and I feel that branching out into her own cosmetics line necessarily resulted in a conflict of interest.

Facts and biases

If you read select reviews, she has good advice that is based on fact. If you read the book from cover to cover, you will realize that she tends to mix in her own biases and passes them off as facts. Because she is not a doctor, aesthetician, or chemist, she sometimes sounds like an educated but arrogant customer.

She deserves praise for calling our attention to the fact that many of the big cosmetic brands are over-priced and over-hyped. But anyone who has their own line of skincare and cosmetics should automatically disqualify themselves from critiquing other brands. It would be tantamount to a food critic opening her own restaurant.

Also, as one reads further, it becomes clear that her reviews are based on ingredient lists and not from actual testing. She does extensive research on the ingredients but she has probably never actually used half the products she reviews. Has she seriously tried every single one of the 80,000 plus products she mentions? For example her reviews for self-tanners are all the same since they all use the same active ingredient.

Even if some of her advice is true to a degree, you simply cannot lump everything together and make generalizations. Cosmetics and skincare are so different for everyone-something that does nothing for one person might be a miracle worker for the next person. This is why the beauty industry is thriving. There is something for everyone.

Cases in point

Bottom line is, skincare is a personal thing and people's needs vary. Begoun simply offers basic guidelines for those who are not make-up savvy. For example she tells how people with oily skin should not moisturize (a much debated issue), or how cleansing products with Alpha or Beta Hydroxy are useless because these should be left on the skin to work (a good point), and how most creams contain nothing but fillers and slip-agents and very little of the active ingredient they claim to have.

She also complains about how, with high-end brands, we really pay for fancy packaging.

In any case, here are a few products available here that Begoun has rated favorably, for one reason or another. They were either "bests" in her monthly newsletter's "Best and Worst" feature, or a "Paula's Pick" in her book. I have added my own comments to two items that I have tried.

Clinique Moisture Surge Extra

"Very good silicone-based moisturizer for normal to dry skin". (I must say I love this moisturizer, it is amazingly hydrating and yet devoid of oil.)

Origins Nude and Improved Bare Faced Make-up SPF 15

"A beautiful light option for light moisture, sheer color and a smart titanium dioxide sunscreen."

Awake Skin renovation powder make-up

"A talc-free powder foundation with gorgeous soft texture that is almost creamy."

Laura Mercier Loose Powder

"Has an out of this world silky texture that blends beautifully over the skin and leaves a satiny smooth, dry finish. All of the shades are workable and have a subtle yellow undertone." (Again I second everything she says here. This is a great powder that has been reviewed favorably everywhere.)

Murad Environmental Sheild Hydrating Sunscreen SPF 15

"A very good, in part avobenzone-based sunscreen that contains an impressive mix of anti-oxidants and water binding agents."

Prescriptives Magic Illuminating Liquid Potion

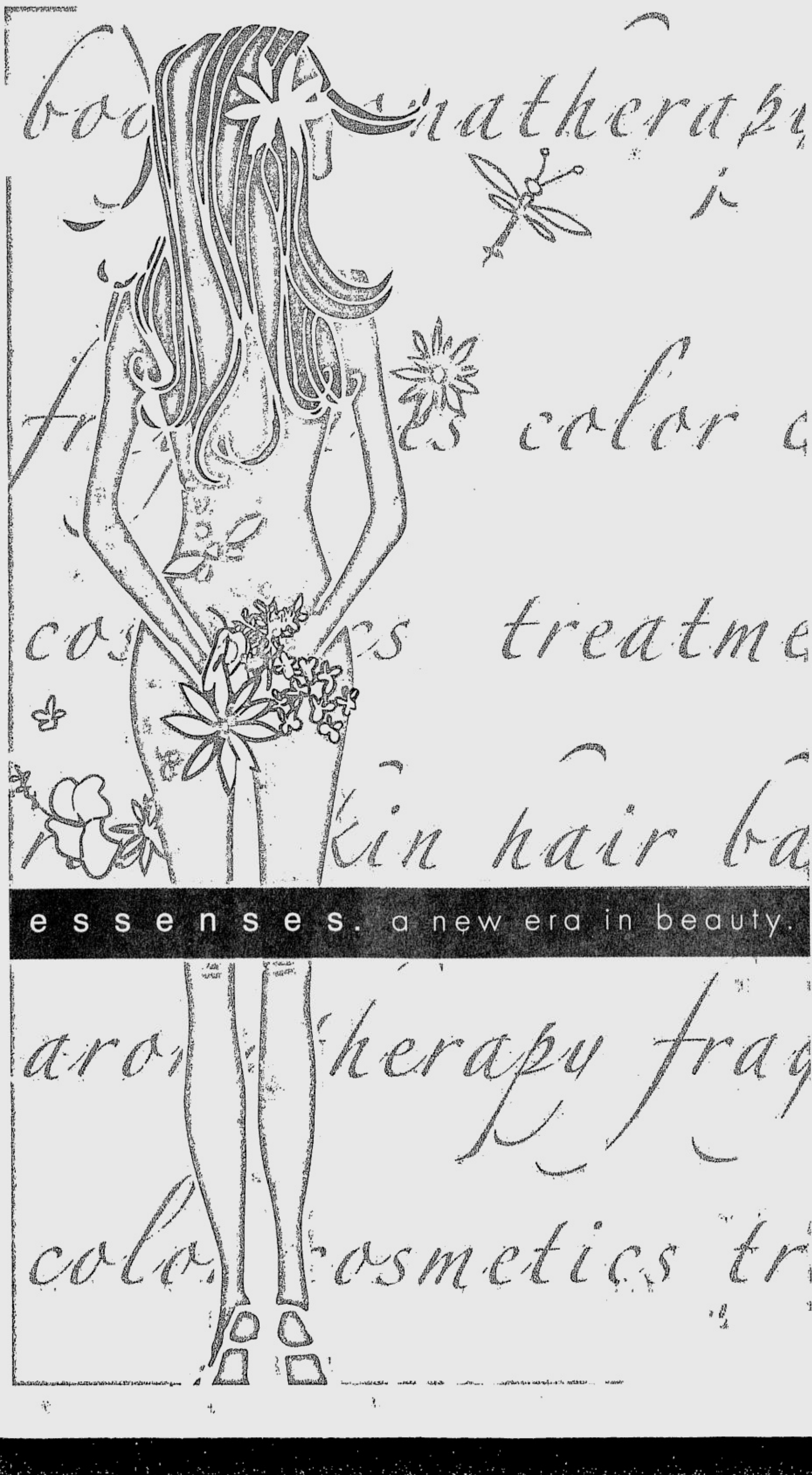
"Gets a stellar rating for being one of the best sheer, liquid-shimmer products available. A little goes a long way, which is a nice benefit when you're spending this much for soft shine. It edges out many others because of the way it melds with the skin, creating a shine that while noticeable, is never intrusive or glittery."

E-mail the author at cherishgh@yahoo.com

Here's a book that examines ingredients in cosmetic items, discusses reasonable benefits, and spots potential irritants

ÉL'AN
PAULA BEGOUN
DON'T GO TO THE COSMETICS COUNTER WITHOUT ME

A unique guide to over 35,000 products, plus the latest skin-care research
Completely Revised & Updated 6th EDITION



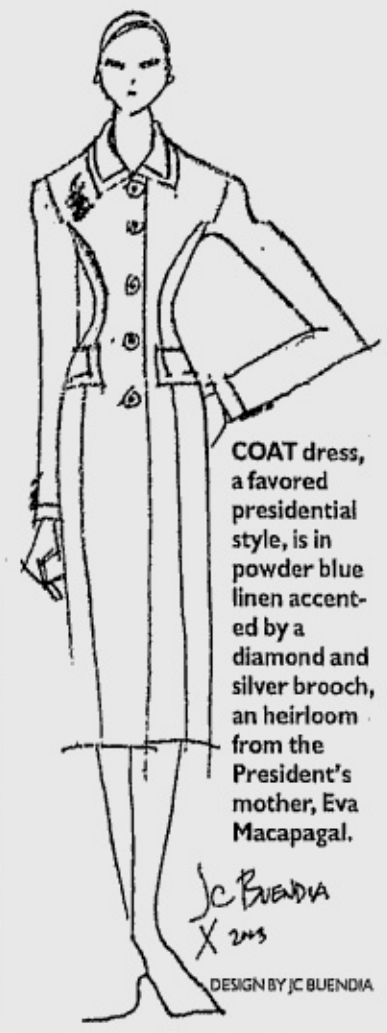
12.30 civil society movement to disband Story below, Col. 1

IN *today's issue*

- **Love affair with words**
  Guest editors: Margarita Delgado and Lizzie Zobel
  LIFESTYLE /SECTION D
- **Kenkoy is alive and well—and he's back**
  ENTERTAINMENT /C2
- **Job Market** /SECTION K

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph October 12, 2003 ★★★ 106 pages / 12 sections / vol. 18 / no. 306 P15



COAT dress, a favored presidential style, is in powder blue linen accented by a diamond and silver brooch, an heirloom from the President's mother, Eva Macapagal.

DESIGN BY JC BUENDIA

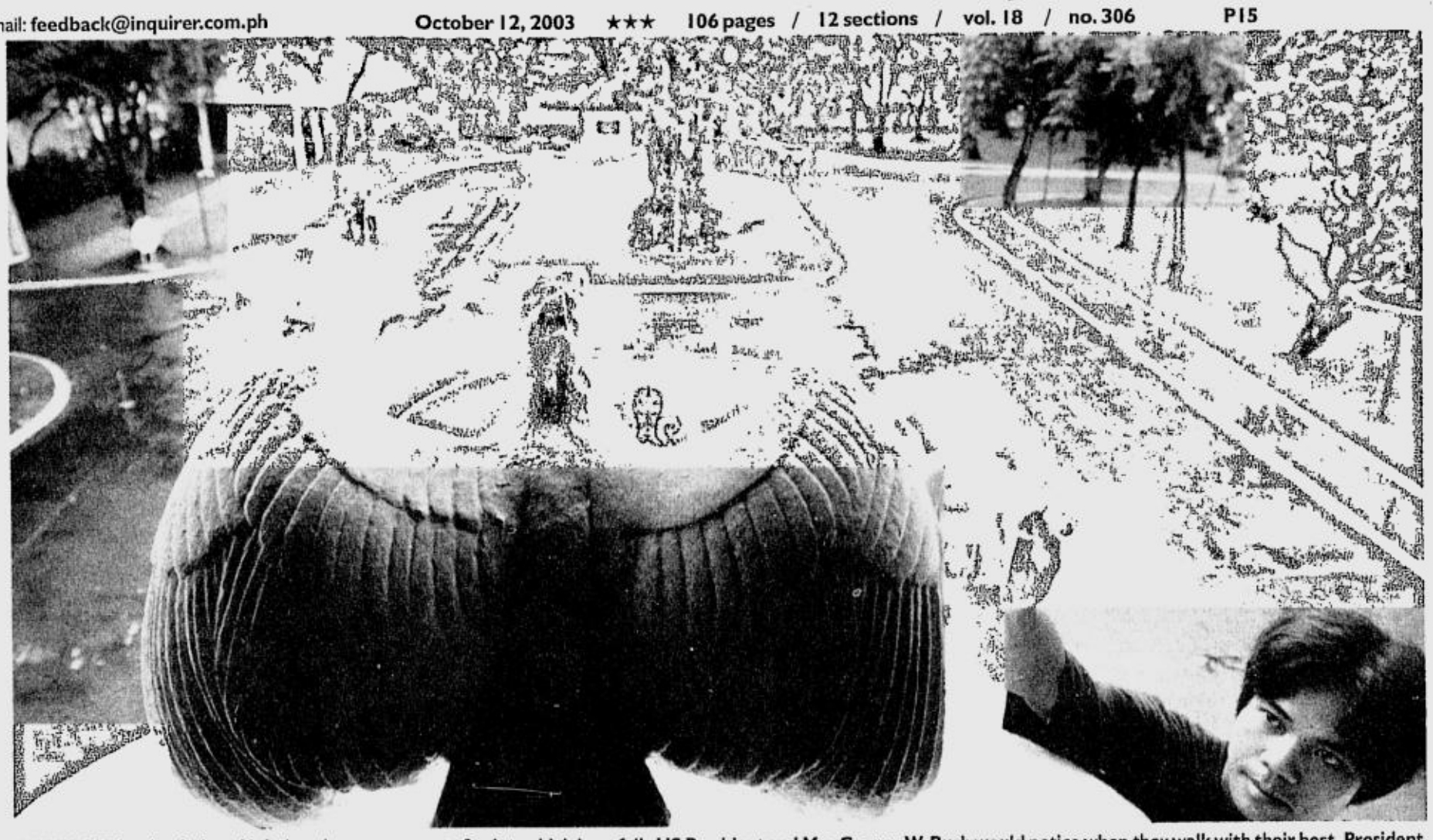
Color GMA blue when she meets US president

By Alex Vergara, *Lifestyle*

BLUE is the color for President Macapagal-Arroyo the day she welcomes US President George W. Bush to the Philippines.

Although the President is usually partial to the color red, "protocol has suggested to us to forego the red suit because of the

COLOR/ A20



THE EAGLE has landed, and is being given a new coat of paint, which hopefully US President and Mrs.George W. Bush would notice when they walk with their host, President Macapagal, down the driveway toward the main Palace (left of the eagle) after the arrival honors are held for the world's most powerful leader. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA anti-kidnap czar

Disappointed civil society group to quit

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

DISAPPOINTED at President Macapagal-Arroyo's decision to run in 2004, many of the civil society organizations grouped under the Kilusang 12.30 have decided that the movement should disband as their reason for being is "no longer viable" with the President's change of mind.

But Joel Pagsanghan, the movement's spokesperson, said the group has not made the decision to withdraw support from the President and would continue to support her reform agenda.

"We have no stand with regard to the [2004] elections. It remains to be seen if we'll endorse anyone," he said.

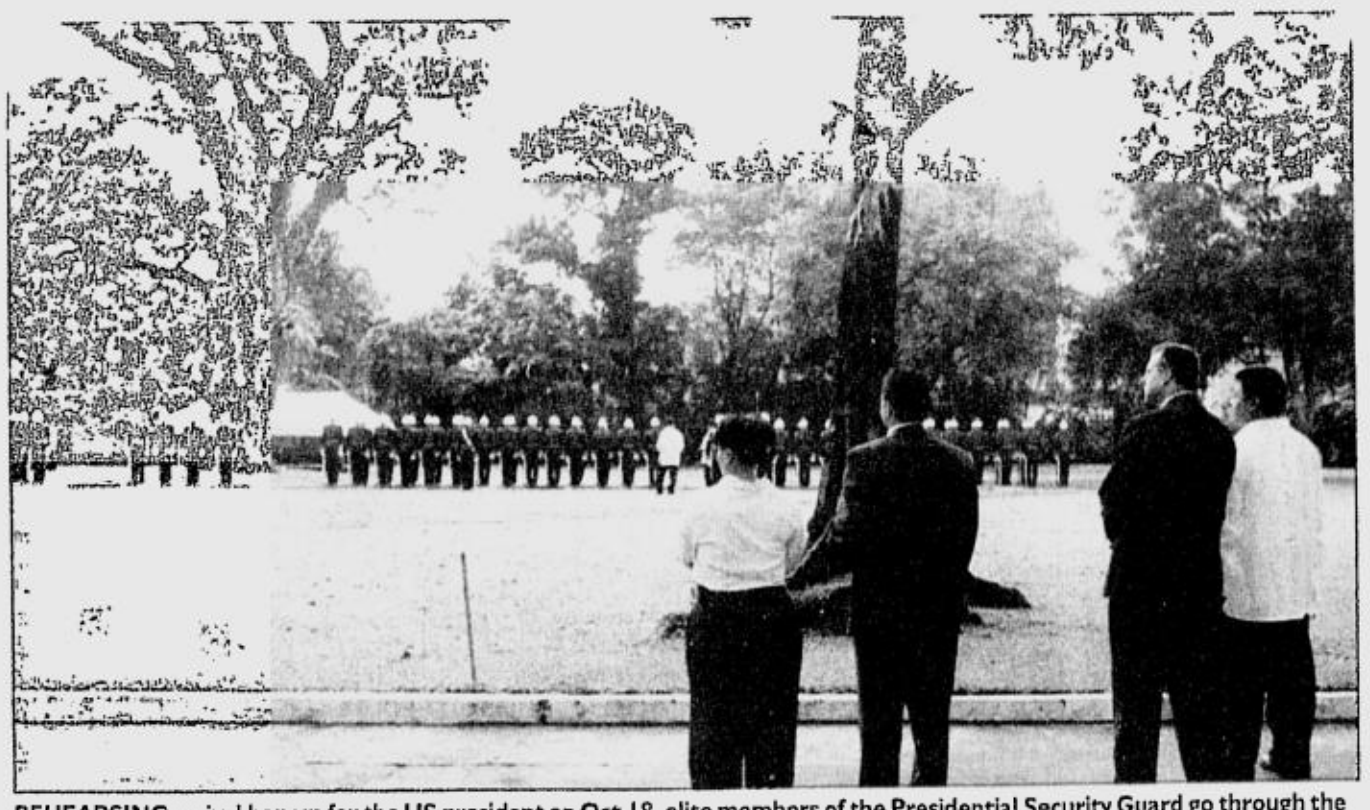
But he said that "as a movement, we're disappointed that the President went back on her word."

He said "majority" of the various nongovernment organizations and individuals in the umbrella organization felt the movement should disband as the premise on which it was established—the President's "sacrifice" when she declared she would not run in 2004—no longer stands.

Pagsanghan said that the President's Dec. 30 declaration that she was giving up an election bid in 2004 to put an end to politicking was integral to the reform agenda that the movement supported.

Inspired by the President's "sacrifice," various NGOs and individuals formed the 12.30 Movement on Jan. 11, 2003 to support her call for clean elections, national reconciliation and economic reforms.

DISAPPOINTED/ A21



REHEARSING arrival honors for the US president on Oct. 18, elite members of the Presidential Security Guard go through the paces of pomp and circumstance. White House and Secret Service men and local security personnel stick around to make sure there are no missteps and miscues. EDWIN BACASMAS

US First Lady to tell children's stories

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

IF PLANS push through, a select group of schoolchildren from certain Metro Manila schools will have a story-telling session with US First Lady Laura Bush on Oct. 18.

The original plan was for Ms Bush, a former librarian, to visit the Legarda Elementary School in Manila. But this was scrapped allegedly because of security concerns in the crowded school site and the shortness of the US First Couple's visit in Manila.

She was also originally set to visit Intramuros, one of the country's tourism showcases, but this too has been scrapped.

According to sources, Ms Bush, accompanied by Philippine government officials led by Education Secretary Edilberto de Jesus, will instead have an interaction with the schoolchildren in Malacañang, where she may choose to read some stories to them.

The students—to be chosen from schools influenced by the American Thomasites, the Philippines' earliest educators—are expected to do a number for their distinguished visitor.

Ms Bush's interaction with the students is scheduled to take place while her husband, President George W. Bush, is meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in the main Palace.

Caterers have been hired to serve up a day-long "barrio fiesta" table in Malacañang for the visitors' official and media delegations.

According to Malacañang sources, Margarita Fores is serving up during the welcome reception at noon Bangus Belly with Mango Sauce, Adobo Flakes with Olive Oil, Bistek Filipino (Angus beef topped with grilled onion), Fiesta Rice (sinangag with smoked fish and chicharon).

US FIRST/ A20

Ebdane told to exert more effort

By Michelle V. Remo and Fe B. Zamora, *INQ.7*

THIS time, anti-kidnapping czarina.

President Macapagal-Arroyo is taking on yet another hands-on role as a way of addressing the recent spate of kidnappings that has alarmed not only members of the Chinese-Filipino community but also big business.

"She has realized the gravity of the problem and has therefore decided to resolve the issue once and for all by personally taking charge," Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FFCCCI), told the INQUIRER last night.

Chua said the President would head a committee on kidnapping to be composed of representatives of the government and of the private sector, and would "call all the shots" on the matter.

The President met with the committee members Friday morning in Malacañang.

The Philippine National Police and the Presidential Anti-Crime Emergency Response (Pacer) are the lead government representatives in the committee, Chua said. The private sector is represented by the various local and foreign chambers, including the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI) and the FFCCCI.

PCCI chair Miguel Varela said the

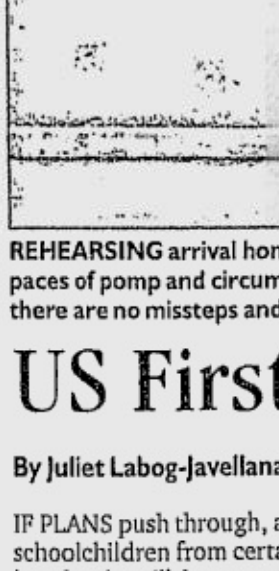
GMA/ A10

Look who's not campaigning

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A week after she used the home advantage to announce her decision to run in 2004, President Macapagal-Arroyo was back in her native Pampanga yesterday but aides were at pains to explain that she was not engaged in early campaigning.

LOOK/ A20



EDUCATION REVOLUTION

People Power goes to (public) school

By Eugenia D. Apostol

(The author is board chair of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power.)

WHERE has People Power gone?

Edsa I and Edsa II both removed corrupt and opportunistic presidents but have the succeeding presidents fulfilled the expectations of the people?

As the late Ambassador Narciso G. Reyes wrote: "People Power initiated a revolution; it was not, in itself, the whole Revolution."

"This explains the prevailing air of transition, the sense of instability, of affairs being in flux. It reflects the reality that the Revolution is not yet fully formed..."

"The unstated goal of the People Power Revolution was not a mere change of regimes but rather a systemic change, a real social transformation."

Not just changing old cronies for new ones, or changing old corruptors with new bribe takers...but a genuine remolding of national character.

Serendipitously in May 2002, I happened to sit beside an Assumption teacher at a dinner. Her name: Chinit Delgado-Rufino. She was part of a group that was studying Social Transformation at the Marie Eugenie Institute. They believe education to be the key to changing attitudes from the *"akin"* ("mine") mentality to *"atin"* ("ours").

As a journalist and chair of the Foundation for Worldwide People

PEOPLE/ A10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2003

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. the rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY:CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/1012/03

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

'OPEN TARGET' TO BE PROTECTED

GMA creates anti-terror task force

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and TJ Burgonio

AFTER admitting that the Philippines was an open target, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday announced the creation of a task force to secure vital infrastructure, installations and public places from possible terrorist attacks.

The Task Force for the Security of Critical Infrastructure, which was formally created on Sept. 24, is headed by deputy presidential adviser Abraham Purugganan, a former military officer implicated in bloody rightist coup attempts in the 1980s but who was later granted amnesty as part of a peace accord.

Among those to be secured by the task force are power plants and transmission and distribution facilities, communications facilities, oil and gas depots, key public works and some public and private buildings in the "nerve center" of commerce and industry.

The Malampaya natural gas-to-power project off Palawan was specifically identified as one of the vital installations to be secured.

Members of the task force are the departments of foreign affairs, interior and local government, defense, transportation, and energy, the National Security Council and the Presidential Management Staff.

Critical structures

The task force will meet on Wednesday to assess the safety of critical structures such as government installations and cyber-based systems essential to the operations of the government and the economy.

The unveiling of the task force came after Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill warned that the Philippines faced the "greatest threat" of a terrorist attack in the region from the Jemaah Islamiyah due to its many potential "soft targets."

These include its Western-style clubs, discos, hotels, multinational businesses and fast-food outlets.

Hill's warning came amid increased security preparations for the eight-hour visit on Oct. 18 of US President George W. Bush.

"Speculations as to the most likely target of terrorism serve no purpose. Terrorists strike anywhere and whenever (they want to)," the President said in her radio message in reaction to Hill's warning.

"We are silently doing our part in fighting terrorism in the region. I assure our people that we are determined to fight any plans of the Jemaah Islamiyah or any other terrorist group," she said.

Potential targets

Ms Macapagal said potential targets in the country have been protected and would be "hard to attack" while intelligence information were being continuously assessed.

But the military and police see no reason yet to go on full alert despite Hill's warning.

"We will increase (the alert status) depending on the risk. So far, we have no evidence or information about any plot. We are just relying on assumptions," Director Ricardo de Leon, acting chief of the Directorial Staff, said.

All personnel of the five police districts in Metro Manila have started conducting mobile patrols in the metropolis as a preemptive measure against any terror plot, De Leon said.

The military and police are expected to upgrade their alert status days before Bush's visit on Oct. 18.

The military have also beefed up security at embassies, malls, hotels and other "soft targets."

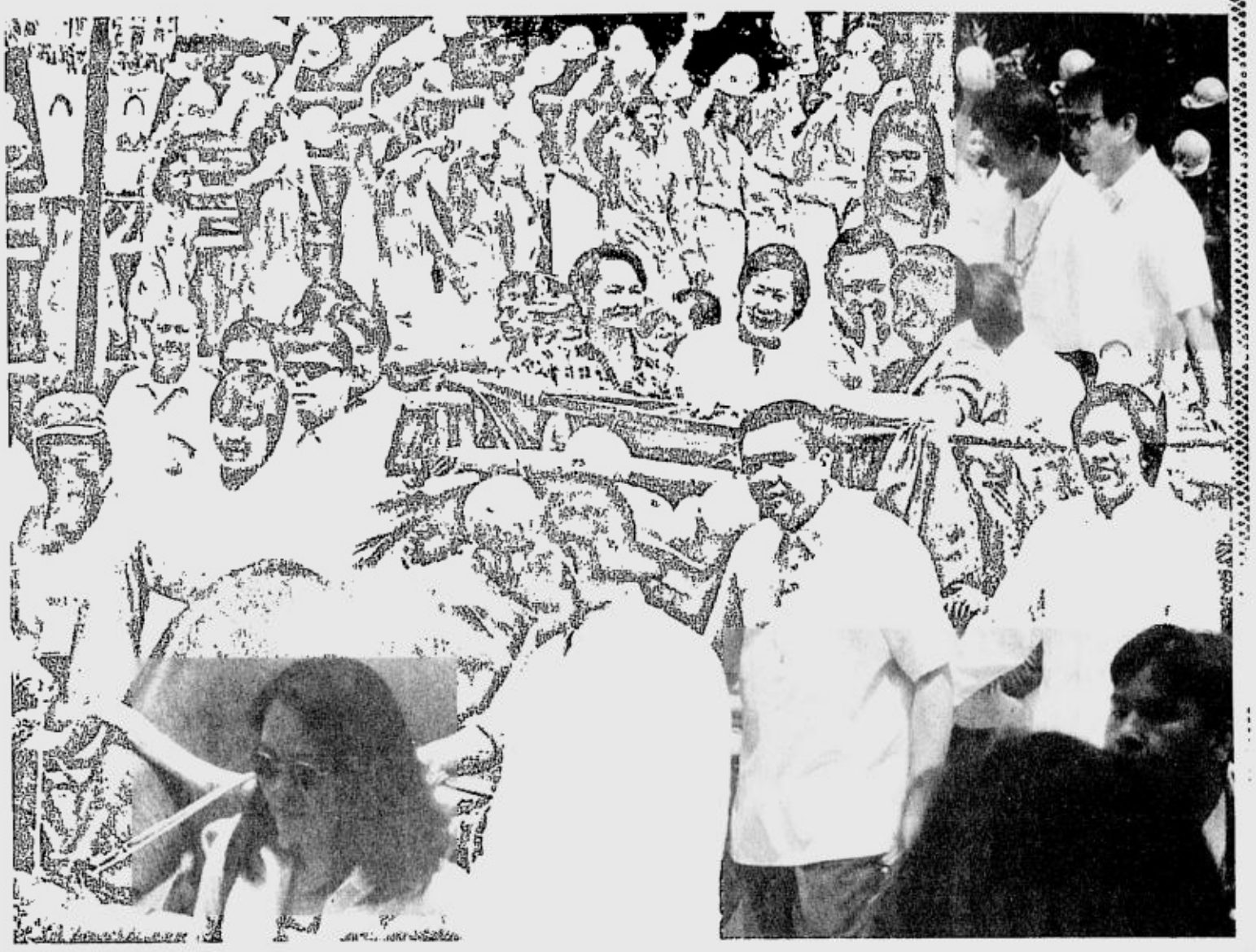
Chief Supt. Prospero Noble, director for the Police Security and Protection Office (PSPO), said that the security for foreign ministers and consuls remained unchanged despite Hill's warning. The PSPO is providing security for the heads of at least 20 embassies out of the 80 embassies in the country.

In Baguio City, a Catholic bishop urged the President to explain to the people what she knows when she declared that the country was "an open target to terrorism."

In an ecumenical service during the celebration of the Tribal Filipino Week here, Bishop Carlito Cenzon of the Baguio-Benguet Vicariate said Ms Macapagal should present evidence to support her pronouncement.

"Is she saying this because US President George W. Bush is coming?" Cenzon asked.

Cenzon said the President should be careful in her statements, especially if she could not present any evidence to prove that the country is indeed one of the direct targets of the terrorist cell Jemaah Islamiyah. *With a report from Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and AFP*



PRESIDENT Macapagal takes a carabao cart ride around the new Hilaga Village in the City of San Fernando, the former Paskuhan Village which was converted to a cultural-tourist attraction by the Department of Tourism. With the President are Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo, Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid and other officials. *(Story on Page 1).* EDWIN BACASMAS

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Explain 'sweetheart deal,' solons tell GMA, Danding

By Michael Lim Ubac

SENATORS Joker Arroyo and Aquilino Pimentel Jr. yesterday demanded that businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and President Macapagal-Arroyo explain their alleged "sweetheart deal" involving coconut levy funds.

"Why is everyone so ominously quiet?" asked Arroyo who stressed that Cojuangco and Ms Macapagal had not strongly denied the alleged deal.

Arroyo stressed that Cojuangco, founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition, and the President, chair emeritus of Lakas-CMD, should shed light on the allegation "to ease the minds of a cynical public (that is) weary and tired of politics and politicians."

"What we hear are from underlings whose statements can be disowned and dismissed conveniently later on," said Arroyo.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye has denied that Malacañang had a hand in the Sandigayanbayan ruling to lift the sequestration orders on a bloc of SMC shares being claimed by Cojuangco.

Both senators suspect it was part of a compromise deal in exchange for Cojuangco's full support for the candidacy of Ms Macapagal in 2004.

Arroyo said it was a token response. "So far they have not done it. Whatever denials come from their third-rate proxies."

"Even if she denies it, people will believe that (deals have been made). Indeed, something has been agreed between her administration and NPC of Danding," Pimentel said.

Pimentel said it was incumbent upon Cojuangco to shed light on the "horse-trading over the SMC shares."

"Cojuangco should speak up on the issue instead of just letting other people make a denial about an alleged secret deal with the President that would allow him to maintain his control over the SMC and remain its chairman," said Pimentel.

The opposition senator noted that the denial was made, among others, by Cojuangco's lawyer Estelito Mendoza, Rep. Francis Escudero of Sorsogon, NPC spokesperson; and former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, NPC president emeritus.

"It should be Danding Cojuangco himself who should explain his side on the controversial Sandiganbayan decision."

The senator stressed that it was incumbent upon Cojuangco to "be forthright in revealing the truth behind the Sandiganbayan case because it is related to the coconut levy controversy that affects the interest of millions of coconut farmers."

Pimentel also reiterated his earlier claim that Cojuangco would soon abandon his presidential bid and back out from his plan to join forces with the opposition.

Arroyo and Pimentel also maintained that both Ms Macapagal and Cojuangco have failed to deny reports that a political coalition between NPC and Lakas was in the works.

"I think that the JDV (pronouncement is a) confirmation... that a deal has been struck between the administration and Danding," said Pimentel.

Bunye has denied that Ms Macapagal was cutting deals with Cojuangco and former President Joseph Estrada to boost her presidential bid. *With report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Palace belittles Reporma's split

MALACAÑANG yesterday belittled the move of the Reporma political party of former defense chief Renato de Villa to bolt the pro-administration People Power Coalition.

Presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye yesterday said the breakaway of Reporma from PPC would have slight, not significant effect, on the administration coalition formed during the 2001 senatorial elections.

Reporma's secretary general Batangas Gov. Hermilando Mandanas announced the breakaway Friday, saying the party would be aligning with Vice President Teofisto Guingona who earlier bolted from the ruling Lakas party.

Bunye said that President Macapagal-Arroyo has not decided whether to keep De Villa as her presidential adviser on strategic concerns.

"The President has no reaction yet because this is a new development and was reported only now. But we will see what the President's reaction on this would be," Bunye said when asked if De Villa would stay in his post.

"He remains a friend even if Reporma reportedly left the coalition," Bunye said in an RMN radio interview.

De Villa had not been seen in Palace meetings and events for quite some time, but Bunye said he was "very much involved" in the government's peace process with Muslim rebels. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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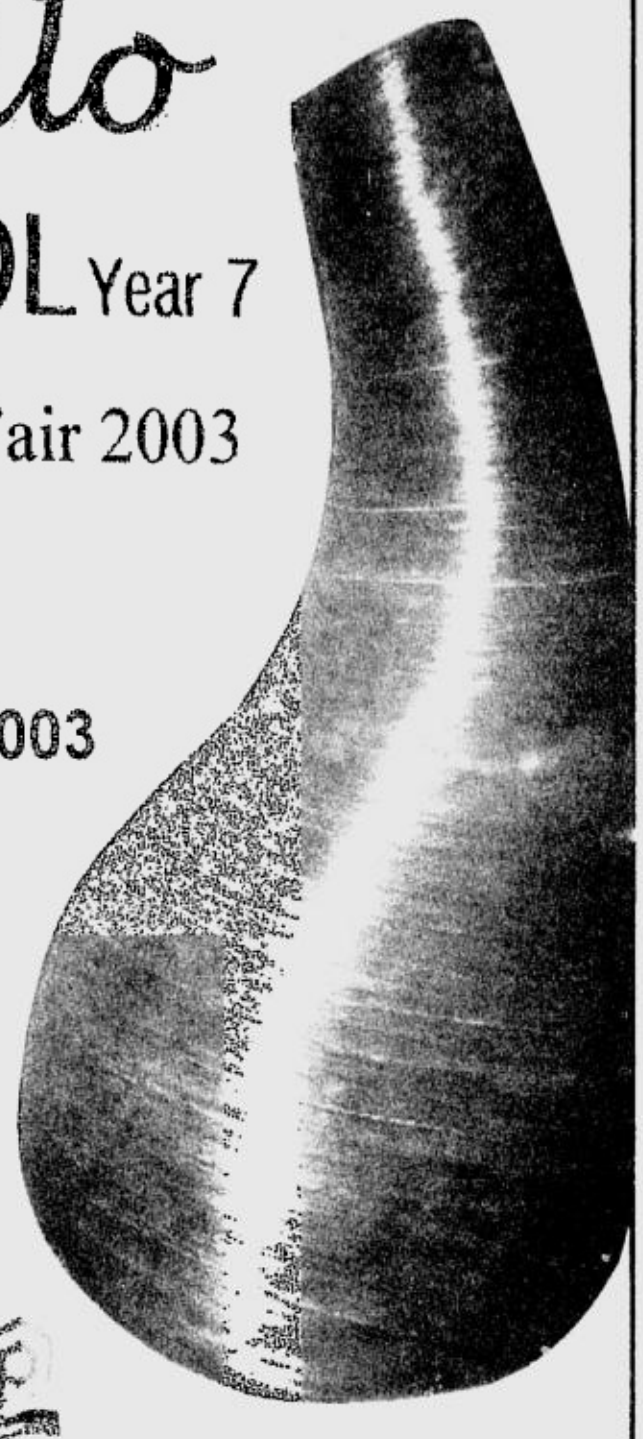

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Businessmen taking second look at new form of government

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE GRIDLOCK in Congress, particularly in the bicameral committee where many major economic bills have been gathering dust, has encouraged businessmen to take a second look at proposals to shift to a parliamentary form of government.

Former Central Bank governor Jose Cuisia Jr. said there is now a "growing interest" among businessmen in the proposed shift to a parliamentary form of government from the current presidential form.

"I myself am not in favor but now I am inclined to consider it," Cuisia said. "Certainly we need a unicameral (Congress) but I don't know about a parliamentary form of government."

Endorsement

Cuisia, who is now president of the Philippine Life Insurance Association, said many key economic bills had been quickly passed by the House of Representatives only to be held up in the politically divided Senate.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and Speaker Jose de Venecia have openly endorsed the shift to a parliamentary form of government. The country's economic managers and some key business groups and members of the ruling oligarchy also support the shift.

At the same time, Cuisia said the recent decision of the President to stand for election in 2004 was a welcome development but business was concerned that whoever wins may not have a clear mandate if there were multiple candidates.

"As the incumbent she has the edge at this point but how she does will depend on who is going to be running," Cuisia said. "At least we know her already, we know what to expect."

No official support

Cuisia said, however, it would be a close fight if former Senator Raul Roco were to run and the opposition would unify under one candidate. "Senator Raul Roco will tend to divide the votes," Cuisia said.

Meanwhile, the influential Makati Business Club said it will not officially support any presidential candidate in 2004.

But its chair said businessmen would be looking for someone who will unify the nation, knows what the priorities are and has a decisive management style.

"The next president must be one who would unite (the nation). Nothing will be accomplished if we are not united," said MBC chair Ricardo Romulo in an interview Wednesday during a testimonial lunch in honor of retired Manila archbishop Cardinal Jaime Sin.

'Concert program'

Romulo said that whoever emerges the winner in the presidential race must have what he called "a concert program."

"There must be a priority. Our problems are the grandiose programs that we never finish. You cannot finish everything in six years so there should be a priority—one by one, priority one before priority two," he explained.

The MBC chair also said the next president should have "a management style that is decisive in every way."

"If someone does not perform, out he goes. If there is a policy or a law that must be enforced, it should be executed, no matter who it may hurt," he said.

Romulo said the President's announcement she will run next year has removed the uncertainty in the business community and would be good for the economy.

"There is no denying that since she is the incumbent president, she is the candidate to beat," he added.

The MBC was one of the key players in the Edsa People Power II revolt that toppled President Joseph Estrada in 2001 and installed Ms Macapagal.

If Ms Macapagal would retain the presidency, Romulo said, she must concentrate on solving the country's burgeoning budget deficit and rally Filipinos to unite behind her economic reforms.

He urged the President to announce her plans if she wins, avoid partisan politics and show that she is executing her programs.

"She laid down her goals in her State of the Nation Address. It's not too late to show that she would be able to accomplish some definite goals," Romulo said. *With Jerome Aning*

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c. Bahay Ko (BKP) accounts; and
d Lease Purchase Accounts of individual members

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a. Fully paid IREL, DCS and BKP accounts;
b DCS accounts resulting from sale of acquired assets; and
c Foreclosed/cancelled accounts

Terms and Conditions on RRRP

Condonation of Penalties and Surcharges
a. For IREL and DCS/Lease Purchase Accounts. All penalties and surcharges previously imposed shall be condoned
b. For BKP Accounts. All surcharges previously imposed shall be condoned. Penalties, which is in the form of additional interest and integrated therein, shall not be condoned.
c. For previously Restructured Accounts. All penalties and surcharges previously imposed from the date of last restructuring shall be condoned, except RA 8501

Minimum Payment Requirement
a. Up-to-date accounts and Non-Delinquent Accounts. No downpayment required. If the borrower wants to reduce the balance to further lower the interest rate payment must be made within the month of application.
b. Accounts in Default. At least ten percent (10%) of the outstanding balance net of penalties and surcharges which must be made within the month of application

In the event the 10% downpayment is not completed within the month of application, said payment shall be applied as regular payment and application shall be cancelled. In the event borrower re-applies, he will be required to put up another 10% of the outstanding balance net of penalties and surcharges as of the month of application

Restructured Balance.
The amount to be restructured shall be the outstanding balance net of penalties/surcharges condoned and downpayment, if any.

Effectivity Date of Restructured Account.
a. Up-to-date Accounts and Non-delinquent Accounts. The first amortization shall be due on the month of application.
b. Accounts in Default. The first amortization shall be due at the end of the month following the month of application

Terms of Payment

The borrower shall have the following options for the term of payment.
a Remaining term
b Any year from one to fifteen as may be opted by the borrower, which ever is longer.

Interest Rate

For members	Interest Rate
P 180,000 00 and below	8%
P 180,000 01 to P300,000	10%
P 300,000 and above	12%
For non-members above rates	+2%

Repayment Scheme.
a. For active members as principal borrower salary deduction. Any deficiency shall be covered by salary deduction from a co-maker(s) and/or issuance of twelve post dated checks covering the deficiency for the succeeding twelve months
b. For non-members as principal borrower and co-maker — issuance of post dated checks.
Twelve post dated checks shall be prepared initially. Every anniversary of the loan, the borrower shall be required to submit the next twelve checks for the amortization for the following year and every year thereafter until the loan is fully paid.

Sales/Mortgage Redemption Insurance (SRI/MRI)

a. Re-insurance of restructured accounts with lapsed SRI/MRI coverage(on original loan) shall be at the option of awardee / buyer of rights, subject to all existing Optional Life Insurance policies.
b. Restructured accounts which SRI / MRI did not lapse, shall remain in force but only for the amount corresponding to the present value of the original loan. The difference between the restructured amount and present value may be insured but shall be subject to whatever actuarial adjustment there might be.

Penalties and Surcharges

Any unpaid amortization during the term of the restructured account shall be charged a penalty computed monthly using the table and as illustrated below:

Principal Loan	Penalty Rate
P180,000 and below	1/
P180,001 to P300,000	2/
Above P300,000	2/

1/ (0.50% x total arrearages) + (0.08% x principal balance)
2/ (0.50% x total arrearages) + (0.33% x principal balance)

Processing Fee

A processing fee shall be collected from the applicant for each account availing of this program, as follows
a Restructuring — P500.00 only
b Subrogation Fee — one half percent (1/2%) of the original loan

Subrogation of Rights

Application for subrogation / Transfer of Rights shall be processed and approved subject to the following requirements.
1. Submission of the following.
a. Deed of Transfer of Rights.
b. Special Power of Attorney.
c. Multiple subrogation/ transfer maybe allowed provided that all the corresponding contracts and other documentary requirements are presented to the GSIS for authentication;
d. Extra-judicial settlement and partition, if sale is after death of original borrower, to be published once a week for three (3) consecutive weeks and an Affidavit of Publication
e. Authentication of legal documents, if it is notarized abroad
2 The terms and conditions as described above
3 Interest rates shall be as stated above

Restructuring Agreement

The restructured subrogated account shall be covered by a Supplemental Agreement embodying the terms and conditions of this program. The provisions of the original contract shall remain in full force except as amended herein

Application Requirements

1 Application form duly accomplished and signed by any of the following
a Principal borrower / awardee (including the co-makers if any)
b. Buyer of Rights/transferee
c Any duly authorized representative of the above
2. Latest payslip principal borrower / awardee/co-maker and or Buyer of rights,
3. Valid Identification Card

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Others as may be determined by the GSIS
4. Commitment Letter to pay either by salary deduction issuance of post-dated checks or combination

Applications with incomplete requirements shall not be accepted

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2 cops, civilian killed in NPA ambush in Occ. Mindoro

By Marlon Ramos, *PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*, and TJ Burgonio

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Four policemen and their civilian driver were on their way to pick up the wife of Occidental Mindoro Gov. Jose Villarosa Friday morning when they were waylaid by about 30 members of the New People's Army in Abra de Ilog, that province.

The ambush resulted in the deaths of rookie policemen PO1 Joemeral Mendez and PO1 Edward Pasion and their driver, Jose Macalad Jr., according to Mimaropa regional police director Senior Supt. Alejandro Lapinid. Wounded were PO1 Joey de Vera and PO1 Emer Resurreccion. A report to Camp Crame in Quezon City, however, said Resurreccion was not hurt.

Lapinid said the police officers all belonged to the 408th Provincial Mobile Group (PMG) stationed in Abra de Ilog.

In an initial report, Occidental Mindoro police chief Senior Supt. Artemio Gabriel said the group had been asked by the office of Governor Villarosa to provide security for Mrs. Girlie Villarosa when she arrived at Abra de Ilog by boat from Mamburao town in the same province.

"It was a regular request for assistance," according to Supt. Liberato Elemos, chief of Region IV's police regional intelligence and investigation division.

Lapinid said PMG director Supt. Ruben Sodsod quickly dispatched the policemen as requested.

"As the group was traversing an irrigation road in Sitio Kadilawan, Barangay San Vicente, their jeep hit a land mine which exploded, sending their vehicle to the ditch," he said.

At this point, "the NPAs who had positioned themselves at the roadside fired at my men," Lapinid said.

He said the policemen fought back but before reinforcements could arrive, the communist rebels believed to be with the Lucio de Guzman Command had shot and killed two of them and Macalad.

Lapinid said the rebels quickly retreated to the mountains in the area. "They knew reinforcements were coming."

The NPA has stepped up its attacks ahead of the visit to the country of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18. The US has tagged the NPA a foreign terrorist organization.

The ambush was the second in the province in as many months after another group of NPAs killed four policemen in an ambush in San Jose town in September.

Checkpoints have been set up in the area to try to catch the fleeing rebels, Elemos said.

The ambush site was halfway between Abra de Ilog and Mamburao, he added.

A few hours earlier, a communist rebel was killed during a clash with elements of the Army's Bravo Co. and the 31st Infantry Battalion in Camarines Norte.

The government troops chanced upon a group of eight rebels while conducting a patrol in Barangay Calabagas, San Vicente town, triggering a firefight. Seeing they were outnumbered, the rebels withdrew. The troops recovered two M-16 rifles after the firefight.

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Reds pooh-pooh country's non-Nato ally designation

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The Communist Party of the Philippines has belittled the United States' designation of the Philippine government as a major non-Nato ally, saying, "It is nothing much more than a master's flattery to a fawning underling."

Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, CPP spokesperson, stressed that as far as the government's effectivity against the revolutionary movement was concerned, the designation will have "minimal impact."

"If anything, the expected inflow of hand-me-down US war matériel in support of its newest major non-Nato ally's all-out terrorist war will only further the already intense militarization and suffering in the countryside," Rosal said in a statement.

US President George W. Bush made the designation official in advance of his eight-hour state visit here on Oct. 18 en route to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) leaders' summit in Bangkok, Thailand.

This gives legal foundation to the broadening of US military and security aid to the Philippines, as well as bilateral cooperation in the war against terrorism.

Nato is a strong alliance of 19 countries in North America and Europe committed to maintain peace and order on the continent.

Rosal has described most of the US weapons that would find their way to the military armory as "lemons or actually even flying coffins. About half of those lemons are junk which need to be overhauled and only spare parts could be salvaged from the other half."

Nevertheless, he still expressed concern that "even with what they can use from such defective weapons, the AFP will still continue to kill and destroy the communities, farms and properties of peasants and workers who are protesting their extremely oppressed and exploited state, or are even just suspected of supporting the revolutionary movement."

He predicted that most of the weapons would eventually end up in the hands of the NPA.

Rosal noted that from the start, the local rebellion "has been determined not by the strength in men and arms of the reactionary puppet army but principally by the will, correct ideological and political line and strategy of the revolutionary forces."

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Philippine Judicial Academy
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As [illegible] by Section 10, RA 8557, the Philippine Judicial Academy, PHILJA, the educational arm of the Supreme Court, will conduct its 7th Pre-Judicature Program, on November 10 – 28, 2003 at Cagayan De Oro City. It is prescribed for lawyers who aspire for appointment as judges [illegible] first-level courts, second-level courts and [illegible] Court of Tax Appeals, and Justices of the Sandiganbayan [illegible] of Appeals.
[illegible] shall determine the eligibility of the participants [illegible] in the program. A written Comprehensive [illegible]
The [illegible] at VIP Hotel, Don Apolinar Velez [illegible] Cagayan [illegible] October 30-31, 2003, to conduct the preliminary [illegible] screening for qualified applicants for the program [illegible] the required registration fee must be [illegible] screening will also be conducted at PHILJA, Manila, 3/F [illegible] Supreme Court, Taft Avenue cor Faura, Manila.
The Pre-Judicature Program is also accredited for purposes of Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE).
Interested parties may make their reservations at PHILJA [illegible] telefax nos 552-9518, 552-9517 addressed to Judge Priscila S. Agana, Executive Secretary; or at telefax no. 552-9526. Registration Forms and Personal Data Sheets can be downloaded at supremecourt.gov.ph

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GMA names water board head

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed Ramon B. Alikpala executive director of the National Water Resources Board (NWRB), the government agency that regulates the country's water resources.

Alikpala takes over from Rodolfo D. Mateo, who was removed from office.

A management consultant by profession, Alikpala specializes in economic regulation, change management, business analysis and strategy.

Prior to his appointment, Alikpala was deputy administrator for financial regulation of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System-Regulatory Office. He is also a lecturer in the Development Studies Program of the Ateneo de Manila University.

Captors of Indon, Filipino hostages make ransom demand

KUALA LUMPUR—Armed raiders who kidnapped six foreign workers from a Malaysian resort on Borneo this week have made a demand for an undisclosed amount to secure the release of the hostages, local media reported Saturday.

An unidentified person, believed to be a local speaking in Malay, used a cellular phone to contact the police, the resort operator and the family of one of the hostages after the tiny riverside Borneo Paradise Resort in eastern Sabah state was raided by the band of 10 gunmen last Sunday.

Malaysian police chief Norian Mai confirmed the ransom demand.

"There has been contact for ransom of the hostages," he was quoted as saying by The New Straits Times. He declined to comment further.

Police had earlier said the kidnapping of the three Indonesian and three Filipino workers was carried out by criminals or "pirates" who may have had foreign help.

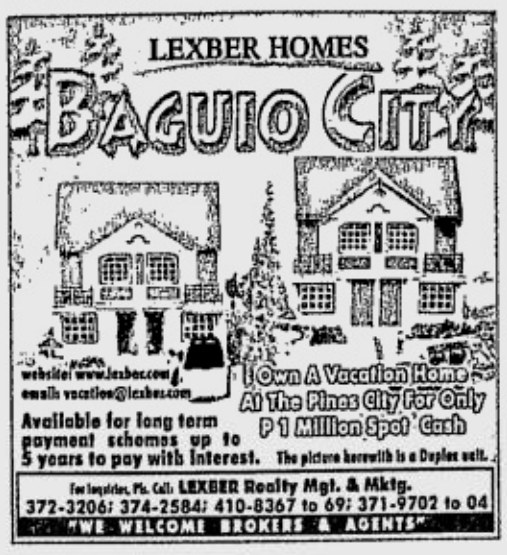
Although some of the kidnappers were wearing military fatigues and carried assault rifles, police ruled out that they were members of the Philippine Muslim rebel group Abu Sayyaf, which carried out a similar raid by boat on the Sidapan resort in Sabah in 2000 kidnapping tourists.

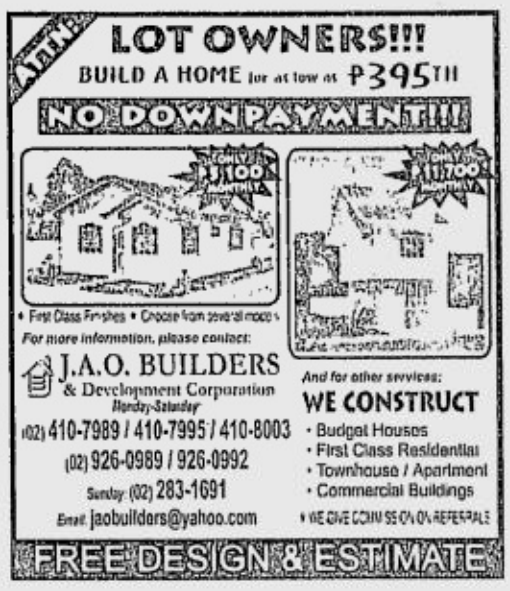
The Sidapan hostages were shipped to the Southern Philippine island of Jolo where they were held for nearly a year in the jungle. They were later ransomed for millions of dollars.

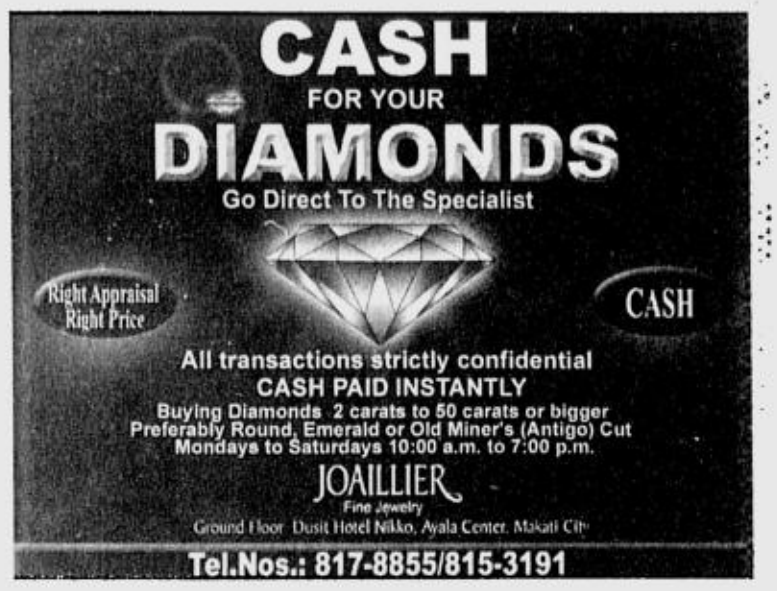
The Philippine military has dismissed the possibility the gunmen and their captives had landed in Jolo.

"There is no such thing. We have nothing to indicate that the gunmen have landed in Jolo," Armed Forces of the Philippines vice chief of staff Lt. Gen. Rodolfo Garcia was quoted as saying by The Star.

Malaysian police have said they believe the gunmen are still in Malaysian waters. *AFP*







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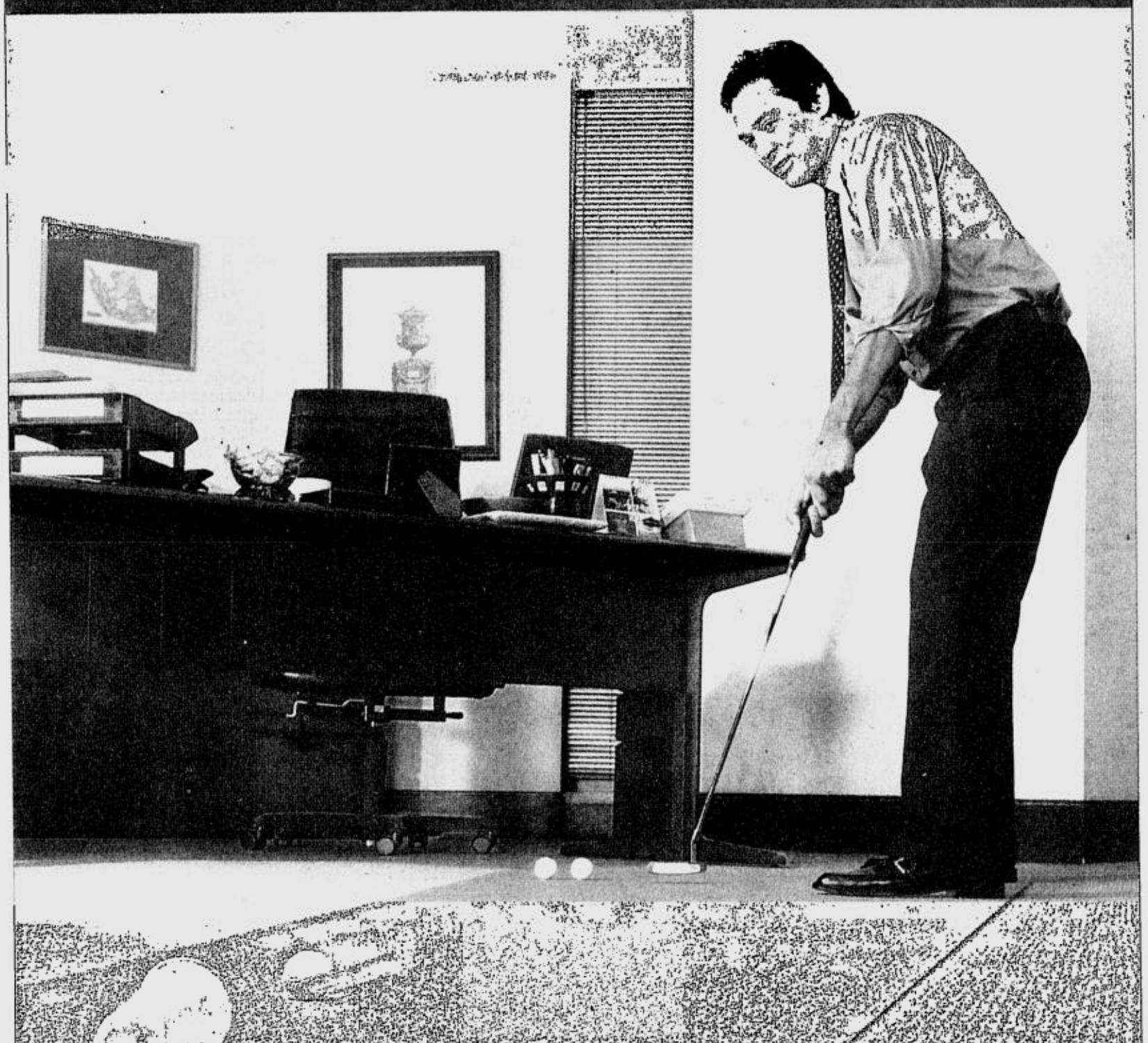

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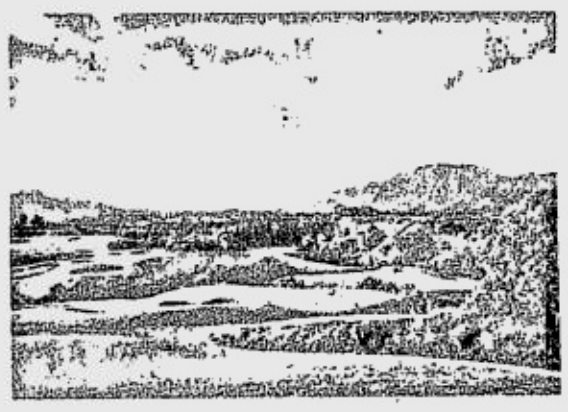

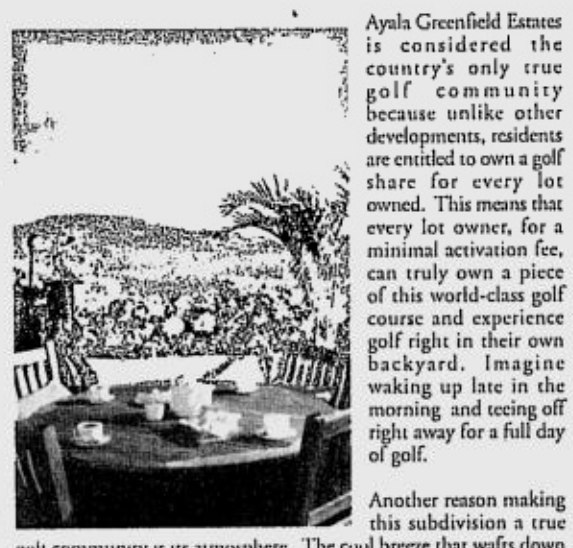

Ayala Greenfield Estates is considered the country's only true golf community because unlike other developments, residents are entitled to own a golf share for every lot owned. This means that every lot owner, for a minimal activation fee, can truly own a piece of this world-class golf course and experience golf right in their own backyard. Imagine waking up late in the morning and teeing off right away for a full day of golf.

Another reason making this subdivision a true golf community is its atmosphere. The cool breeze that wafts down Mt. Makiling makes playing on this championship golf course truly a relaxing experience. The scenic views afforded by the gentle Mt. Makiling, the Tagaytay ridge and surrounding Calamba also help form the picturesque backdrop for a perfect day of golf amidst the fairways and greens.

According to Jones, "nature contributes to the excitement and pleasure of playing golf. The natural playing ground becomes a venue for challenging the minds and a 'refuge' for the souls of zealous golfers." Touted as the father of environmental golf design, Jones upholds his long commitment to preserving nature in his design of the Ayala Greenfield Estates course. For example, instead of chopping off sections of one of the prominent hills in the area, the golf course will now be wrapped around its base.

As a residential/golfing destination for the whole family, Jones described Ayala Greenfield Estates as "the only place where golfers and their families can have a great time."

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Jail a distinct possibility, admits Lacson

By Michael Lim Ubac

BELEAGUERED Sen. Panfilo Lacson admitted yesterday it was just a matter of time before he found himself behind bars.

After claiming that the recent revival of the Kuratong Baleleng case by the Supreme Court was "highly political," Lacson again accused Malacañang and the high court of colluding to effect his immediate arrest.

In a statement, Lacson said he believes Malacañang would again use its "influence over the Supreme Court" to intervene in the Kuratong Baleleng cases should Quezon City Judge Theresa Yadao fail to issue an arrest warrant against him and his co-accused.

"My mole told me that Palace boys are that desperate to jail me that they will do everything at their disposal. Thus, they will not accept any course of action from Judge Yadao other than the issuance of arrest warrants against myself and my co-accused," he said.

Quoting his sources, Lacson said Malacañang Task Force 71" convened last Friday to "map out their legal maneuvers with the ultimate objective of placing" me behind bars immediately.

Task Force 71 is a multi-agency group created by Malacañang in anticipation of the revival of the Kuratong Baleleng rubout cases against Lacson and 32 others.

Lacson quoted a "Palace mole" as saying that one of the strategies of the government and private prosecutors led by Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño and lawyer Arno Sanidad "is to return to the Supreme Court and file a motion that will take away the Kuratong case from the sala of Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao of Branch 81."

It was Yadao who had earlier dismissed the cases, saying the prescription period had run out.

Lacson said the prosecutors would take this course of action because of the strong possibility Yadao would desist from issuing arrest warrants until a motion filed by the senator's lawyers on Friday is resolved.

Lacson and two of his co-accused—former Police Director Romeo Acop and Chief Supt. Francisco Zubia—have petitioned Yadao not to issue arrest warrants against them until her court had determined if probable cause existed to continue with the cases.

Lacson described the "orchestrated" move to effect his arrest as "arrogance of power in the highest order."

"No less than Malacañang is manipulating the judicial system to suit its political agenda of persecuting its enemies and throwing them in jail for good," he said.

But Lacson was still hopeful Yadao would be fair in dispensing with the 11 multiple murder cases for the killing of members of the Kuratong Baleleng gang in May 1995.

Yadao, he said, was a person of "independence and integrity and would not be cowed by the powers-that-be, including the Supreme Court, into making decisions favorable to the prosecution."

Taking up the cudgels for Lacson, Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. urged the Department of Justice to allow the wheels of justice to turn freely.

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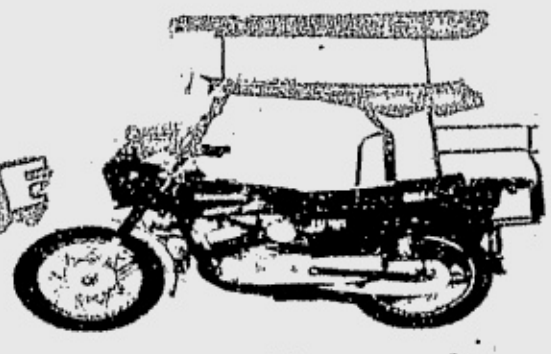

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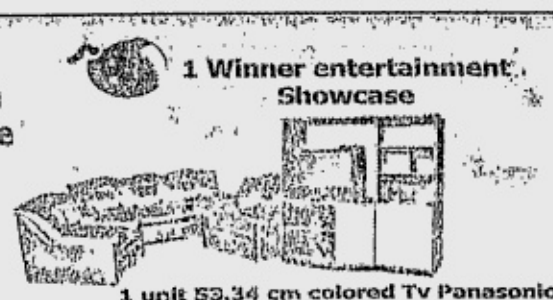

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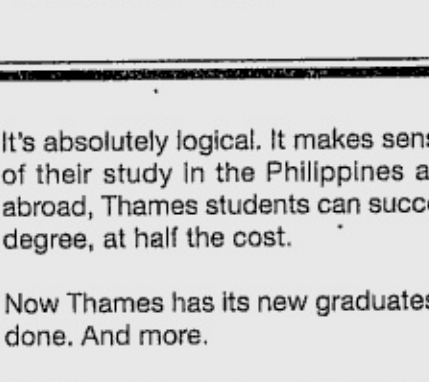

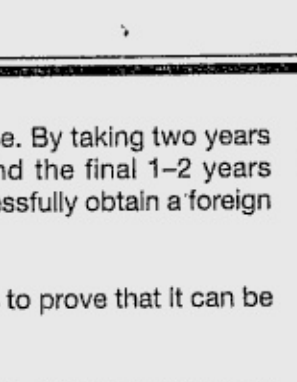

"But the real winners are the students themselves and their parents who sacrificed being away from each other for a year", Mr. Santos continues. And the sacrifice is definitely not for naught.

Jojan Juson who finished from Portsmouth University has been hired prior to her graduation by a new Metrobank subsidiary company in London. Jenny Ong, also from Portsmouth now says that she feels so globally competitive and ready to face the world. Most parents who have apprehensions regarding "letting go" of their children has this to hear from Mark Seng (BA Marketing from Middlesex University): Studying abroad has opened my mind. I stopped limiting myself.'

Of course, preparing financially is also a factor. However, the cost of studying the first two years at Thames is comparable to major universities in the Philippines such as Ateneo and La Salle. The only time you pay the tuition fees abroad is in the last 1 – 2 years. Thames successfully cut the cost of obtaining a foreign degree in half through its unique "twinning" program. As the biggest institution in the Philippines that offers a foreign undergraduate degree, Thames' system works by letting students take their first two years locally, and finish the final 1-2 years in any of the affiliate universities in the U.K., Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or the U.S.

Ramon Juson, father of Jojan Juson relates that they weren't sure if they could afford her U.K. tuition. But seeing the need for global competitiveness as thoroughly explained to them during Thames' pre-enrollment seminar, they brought their family resources together—giving it all. Now they've got a world-class professional for a daughter, and a first honors graduate at that.

Mrs. Sonia Lampa, mother of Eleazar Lampa (BS Business IT, Portsmouth University) says. "It is every parent's dream to see his or her child finish college, and our son even did it with honors. A good education is really the best legacy we can give our children"

Parents realize that in the end, every effort made to provide the best education for their children reaps its own rewards. And Thames has made it more accessible, more achievable.

Thames students go through a dynamic British Educational Curriculum validated by UCLES (University of Cambridge Local Examination Syndicate). They move on to internationally renowned universities in the U.K. (Oxford Brookes University, Heriot-Watt University, University of Wales-Bangor, University of Portsmouth, Middlesex University, University of North London, University of Central England, Thames Valley University and Conventry University). In Canada, they go to the University of Winnipeg while in Australia, students finish their studies at Curtin University, Queensland University of Technology, University of Southern Queensland, and Central Queensland University.

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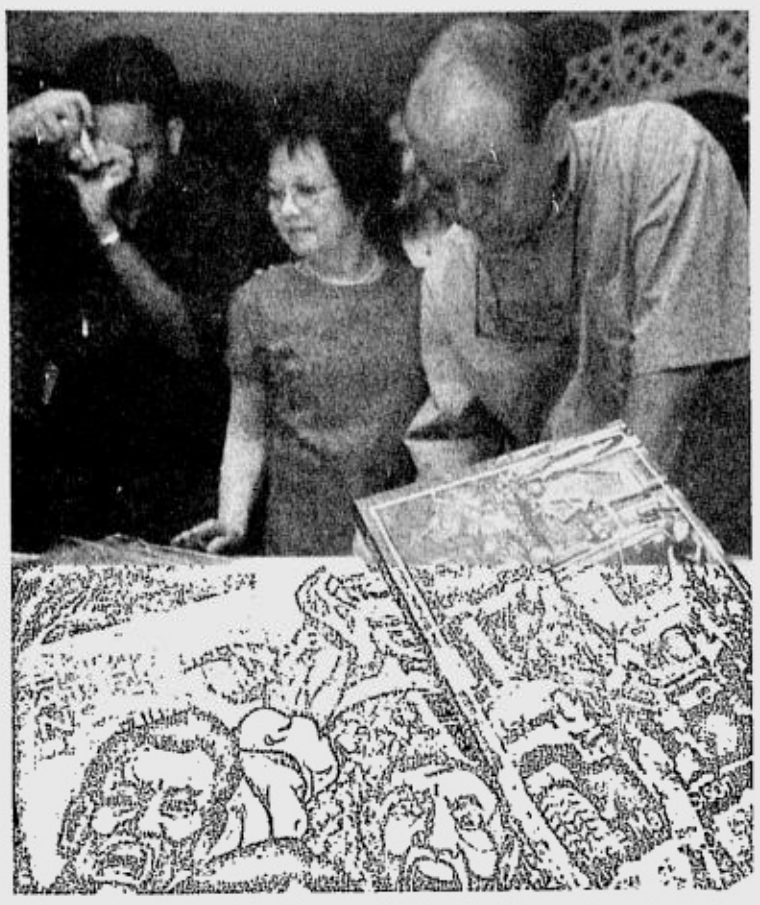

THE BOOKS by Jose Ma. Sison and Julieta de Lima are launched at UP Diliman. JOAN BONDOC

Artist raps 'suppression' of his work

By Volt Contreras

"CENSORSHIP"

A visual artist is protesting the "suppression" of his freedom of expression, after his painting depicting controversies hounding the Macapagal administration was pulled out at the last minute from an exhibit in Makati City.

Dindo Llana, 37, yesterday said his work titled "Na-Coup Ha!"—which he described as a "parody" of the Jose Pidal scandal and the United States war on terror, among other issues—was withdrawn "three hours before the opening" of the Ayala Museum exhibit, to which he had been formally invited as a participant.

In a press forum at the Treehouse Restaurant in Diliman, Quezon City, Llana said the museum curator's explanation was that his work "was submitted late."

The artist insisted that he brought his work to the venue on Sept. 29, the eve of the opening as "we were told." He was not the only participant who submitted his piece that day, he said.

"Letras y Figuras," held alongside a painting competition sponsored by the Spanish Embassy and the Instituto de Cervantes, will run until Oct. 25.

The Spanish ambassador refused to keynote the exhibit opening if it included a work "insulting" to the President, Llana said, quoting other artists.

"When I was informed (of the decision) by phone, I requested that a card be placed on the spot reserved for my work, explaining why it was not included, especially since my name was on the invitation and had appeared in press releases," he told the INQUIRER.

His request was "not allowed," Llana said.

The central figure of the 3m x 3m acrylic piece is one of President Macapagal with her face partly hidden by a "Stars and Stripes" rocket inscribed with the phrase "Weapon of Masa Destruction."

This image is between the smaller caricatures of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo and the President's impersonator known as "Ate Glow."

"The Constitution guarantees freedom of expression," said the artist, whose credits include three solo shows and the bronze medal in the Art Association of the Philippines' 1996 painting competition.

In the same forum, the Concerned Artists of the Philippines cited Llana's case as another reason that more sectors should join protest actions against the forthcoming visit of US President George W. Bush.

Joma launches anti-US books ahead of Bush visit

By Volt Contreras

APART from flag-burning activities and massive protest rallies, new anti-American publications written by exiled communist leader Jose Ma. Sison are set to greet the arrival of United States President George W. Bush.

On Thursday, nine days before Bush's eight-hour Manila visit which starts on Oct. 18, Sison's supporters launched the two books, "US Terrorism in the Philippines" and "Pulitika at Ekonomiya ng Pilipinas."

"You don't have to be a communist to appreciate what Joe has to say about the historical record of US terrorism in the country," said Luis Teodoro, board chair of the publishing house Aklat ng Bayan. "(Such a history) began about 100 years ago with the Filipino-American War, when civilians and entire villages were massacred."

Sison might be unpopular, if not altogether inaccessible, to most Filipinos, added Catholic Bishop Deogracias Yniguez, "but I think he still represents a sector of our society that is analyzing what's happening in our country and the world, and there's validity to what he is seeing."

Yniguez, who chairs the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' (CBCP) Commission on Public Affairs, added: "I hope whatever our biases against people like him will not prevent us from taking advantage of (his) analyses."

Teodoro and Yniguez were the main speakers during the book launch at the University of the Philippines' Balay Kalinaw.

"US Terrorism," consisted of Sison's commentaries on his being labeled "international terrorist" under the Macapagal administration, Teodoro told the INQUIRER. He said the book also contained the exiled rebel leader's statements against "the so-called US war on global terrorism which, to Sison, is just being used (as an excuse) to attack movements for social change."

"Pulitika," which Sison co-authored with Juliet de Lima, is a translation of the 1998 English version. According to Teodoro, the book asserts that Filipino society is still ruled by the elite, with "the majority enjoying little participation" in the exercise of political and economic power.

"Again you don't have to be a communist to know something as obvious as that," he stressed, adding that Sison saw US interests behind the social inequality.

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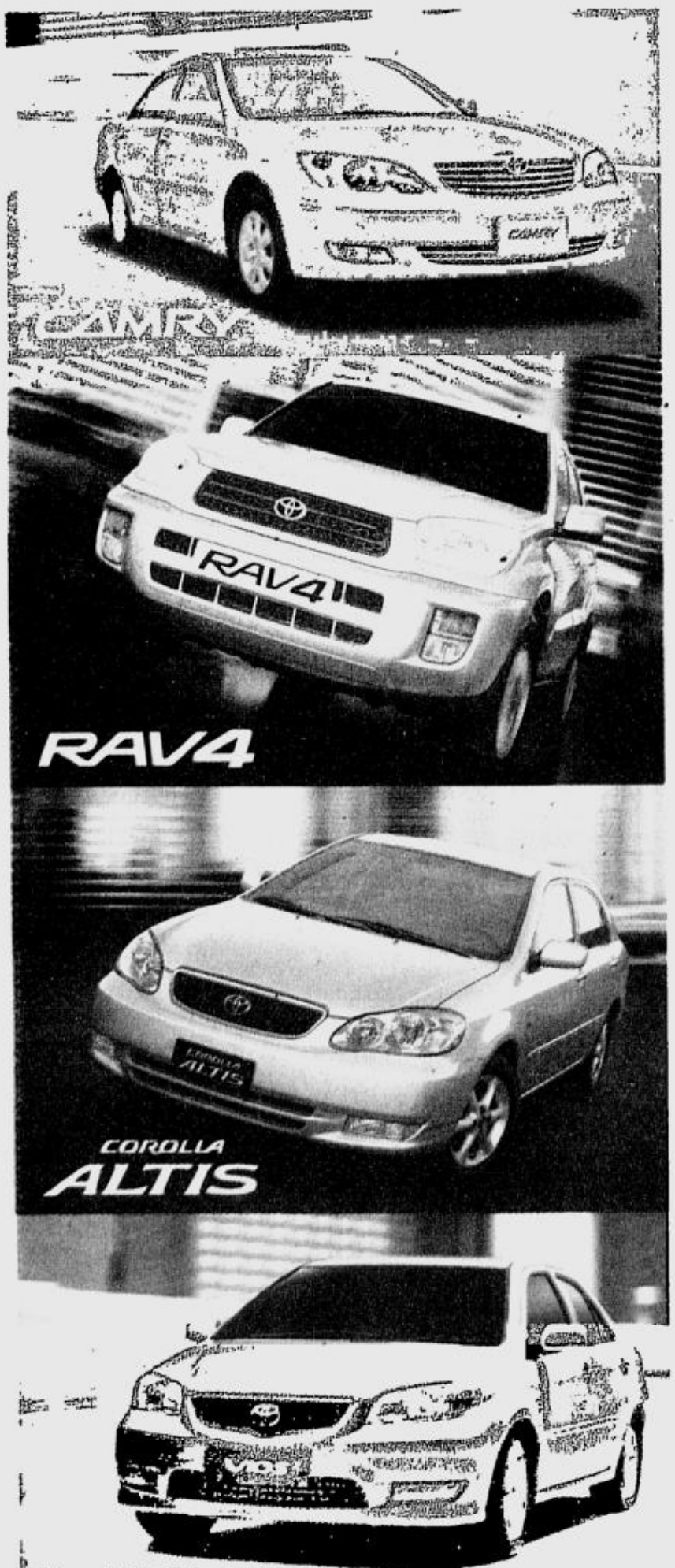

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TOYOTA

People Power goes to (public) school

E.D. APOSTOL

JOSE ABUEVA

MA. LIM AYUYAO

DEL LAZARO

FELY ARROYO

From page A1

Power (FWWPP), I saw the wisdom of this and soon after initiated seminar after seminar on weekends to learn how to harness People Power and hasten more effective ways to change citizen attitudes.

In all three seminars that the FWWPP board of trustees attended, we heard scholars and academics repeat over and over again that education was the key to social transformation.

Our trustees who attended—Fely A. Arroyo, Pepe Abueva, Del Lazaro and Edilberto (DJ) de Jesus agreed with many of the suggestions from our seminar guests:

Billy Lacaba, Raya Media Services; Chita V. Pijano, Philippine Accrediting Association for Schools, Colleges and Universities (Paascu); Lirio Ongpin Mapa, Kapalaran Movement & Center for Leadership & Change; Dr. Evelyn Mijillano, University of the Philippines College of Education; Dr. Celia Adriano, University of the Philippines Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs; Dr. Eden Orosa Kelemen, Philippine Association for Values Education; Sr. Victricia Pascasio, Sisters of the Holy Spirit, Committee on Justice and Peace; Ma. Ceres Doyo, INQUIRER columnist and her friend Sr. Christine Tan (who was so encouraging, may her soul rest in peace); Prof. Nim Gonzalez, Office of the President, Task Force Eskwela ng Bayan; Ceci Magsaysay, Evoke and First Farmers Human Development of Bacolod;Sr. Jackie de Belen, RVM, Bro. Ceci Hojilla, De La Salle brothers; Myra Menguito, Couples for Christ; Winnie Tioseco, Ateneo Center for Education Development (ACED), Rene Briones, ACED; Harvey Que, Pathways to Higher Education (Ateneo); Dr. Sterling Plata, De la Salle University Operation Big Brother, Asuncion Maramba, writer and teacher and Sr. Josephine Nepomuceno, St. Scholastica's College president.

Later, I had a chance to talk to former Education Secretaries Raul Roco and Bro. Andrew Gonzalez, both of whom agreed to help us.

By the end of August we concluded that People Power has to address education by going to every school in every community throughout the land—in short, we needed to launch an Education Revolution.

(Just at this point, the Department of Education portfolio became vacant and one of our trustees, Edilberto de Jesus was appointed. Our loss, but the country's gain—and a providential gain for the Revolution.)

This is what we learned:

- Over 30 million Filipinos are poor, meaning they cannot afford "in a sustainable manner" to provide for their minimum basic needs for survival, security and empowerment.

Survival pertains to food, shelter and clothing while security connotes having a job and living in reasonable safety.

- Empowerment on the other hand arises from education.

A good education unleashes the individual's capacity to improve his life and that of his family.

- There are 17.2 million students enrolled in public schools this school year. They and their families hope that the education they will get will help them eventually break the crippling bonds of poverty.

Formidable odds

Public Education however faces formidable odds.

The quality of education is generally below par. The results of the 2003 National Diagnostic Tests bear this out: grade school pupils posted an average of 30% correct responses in English, 28% in Science and 27% in Mathematics. The test results for high school differed only slightly.

Values

The Basic Education Curriculum provides that positive civic and social values be integrated in lesson plans of all subjects. However, for many reasons, the inculcation of values—such as good citizenship and the respect for the rights of others—are given far less emphasis in the classroom than they rightfully deserve.

Public schools are faced with an endemic lack of facilities. No books, tables, chairs, teaching aids. Their teachers lack training.

Fighting poverty and shaping the values of future generations are public education's greatest challenges.

But then Dr. Pepe Abueva asked, "Yes, but Education for what and for whom?"

Beyond 3R's

Education has profound social implications. Therefore its improvement must be qualitative. If we are to wield education as our best weapon against poverty, our initiative to improve it must transcend the usual solicitations for donations in cash or in kind. We need a national movement that promotes an education system that goes beyond reading, 'riting, and 'rithmetic and empowers citizens with purpose and vision.

Public education deserves an Education Revolution.

Prize-winning film

Six months after the dinner with Chinit, we launched our project at Premiere THX at the Mile Long Compound in Makati City, courtesy of the CMGI Foundation.

Providentially, (hello Angels and Archangels!) Gil Portes was ready to show his latest film "Mga Munting Tinig"—with Alessandra de Rossi in a teacher role.

The prize-winning film could not have been more suited for our project had we commissioned it ourselves. *Hulog ng langit talaga.* Heaven sent.

And with the audience sniffling and crying at the end of the movie, we could not have come in at a more hyped-up moment to emphasize the need for an Education Revolution.

50 schools adopted

Since the launch on Oct.12, 2002 we have seen over 50 adopted schools now listed in various parts of the country. Just a drop considering there are about 35,000 public elementary schools nationwide, but other groups are responding to our call with each passing day.

UE adopts Tarlac schools

We are by no means discouraged. This week alone we met Panfilo Domingo of UE and he said he wants to take care of all the schools in Tarlac, especially in his hometown of Paniqui.

The well-loved columnist Randy David wants to adopt his own Betis Elementary School in Pampanga.

Mentoring mentors

Mentoring the Mentors, with Chinit Rufino as the program director has held two pilot seminars for the Iloilo City public schools. A third one is already underway and very soon here in Region 1 and in Laguna province.

So successful have these been that this week the FWWPP signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Marie Eugenie Institute to engage Assumption Convent schools in Education Revolution activities all over the country. *(Read Chinit Rufino's full story tomorrow in the Lifestyle Section.)*

Last month too, Rosie Osmeña-Valencia held a big fund-raising show in the Manila Polo Club and raised P100,000.00 for elementary schools in Bogo, Cebu. Elo Fernan and her daughter Marissa are leading the Education Revolution there.

Fernan law

Remember, the late Sen. Marcelo Fernan—Elo's husband and Marissa's father—sponsored the Adopt-a-School law in the Senate.

This piece of legislation makes it possible for donors to get 150 percent tax benefits.

It was actually enacted in 1998, but I'm very happy to say that it is only now—last March actually—that the necessary BIR revenue regulation was promulgated, largely through the efforts of Education Secretary De Jesus, as a direct result of all the attention that the Education Revolution generated.

Vigorous

And finally, just last weekend, Beth Cabuguas—our Adopt-a-School program director was in Naga City to coordinate the Education Revolution with Mayor Robredo himself and Naga City's extremely active civil society led by the tireless Jean Llorin.

Columnist Conrad de Quiros says People Power does not come by token gestures but by vigorous action. This is as vigorous as we can get.

EDWIN BACASMAS

PRESIDENT Macapagal "to call all the shots" on kidnapping, according to Francis Chua, president of the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

GMA anti-kidnap czar

From page A1

committee members would perform oversight functions on the government's moves to stamp out kidnapping for ransom.

Varela said the creation of the committee on kidnapping was necessary to finally address the worsening peace and order problem, which has been considered a major deterrent to the government's efforts to sell the country as a preferred investment site.

Private sector

Chua said the representatives of the private sector would also initiate a public awareness campaign on kidnapping.

He also said the PNP led by Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. and Pacer, headed by Sr. Supt. Alan Purisima, promised to intensify efforts in curbing the menace.

Only last Sept. 19, the President ordered a renewed crackdown on kidnapping in light of the announcement of the Citizens' Action Against Crime (Caac) that kidnappings had averaged at least one a day since August.

The Caac's Teresita Ang See had said that her group recorded a total of 17 cases in August. "Police should double their efforts. It seems they are distracted by other issues like drugs and terrorism," she had said.

In announcing the renewed crackdown, the President said that while the PNP had neutralized "a good number of big syndicates in its original list," new gangs had also sprung up.

"The war against kidnapping is of crucial importance to business confidence, and I do not want an extended slack in vigilance," she said.

Ebdane staying

Earlier yesterday, a Camp Crame official said that despite calls for the sacking of Ebdane, the President gave him a fresh directive at the Friday meeting to "exert more effort" in the anti-kidnapping campaign.

"There are no signs that the President is about to relieve him [Ebdane]. On the contrary, he has been given new directives," said the official who asked not to be named.

The source said that based on the President's recent order, Ebdane would be "hands-on" in the anti-kidnapping drive. Matters involving terrorists in Mindanao were assigned to Chief Supt. Virtus Gil, according to the source.

"The President wants a shifting of priorities," the source said. "Maybe this will affect some officer, but there is no indication that Ebdane is on his way out."

Ebdane's stay at his post turned precarious as early as July when Indonesian bomber Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi bolted his high-security detention cell in Camp Crame.

Calls for Ebdane's sacking became even louder after an Abu Sayyaf detainee tried to escape from Camp Crame early Tuesday.

The detainee, Buyungan Bungkak, shot dead three policemen and wounded three others before he was killed in a three-hour operation led by Ebdane himself.

Ms Macapagal was attending the 9th Asean summit on trade and anti-terrorism in Bali when the incident occurred. She told reporters that she would decide on Ebdane's fate as soon as she returned to Manila Thursday.

Immediately after the Bungkak caper, Director Eduardo Matillano, chief of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, went on a leave of absence.

Big business

Ang See said in September that the police should not use the Christmas season or the 2004 elections as an excuse to downplay the reported rise in kidnapping incidents.

"This is usually the period when there is an upswing in kidnapping cases. If they know that already, they should find solutions," she said.

She also said that kidnapping cases had become "an issue for big business because what is at stake here is their security and peace of mind."

Competitiveness survey

In the recently released World Competitiveness Survey, which was conducted by the think tank International Management for Development, the Philippines' ranking in competitiveness slipped four notches to 22 from last year's 18 among 30 economies with a population of over 30 million.

Competitiveness was determined by various factors, including the ability of a country to sustain business, political stability, governance and peace and order.

In the 2003 Annual Corporate Survey of the Wallace Business Forum, multinational companies cited the Philippines' peace and order situation and security problems as among the major deterrents to business.

The other problems cited by the respondents were corruption in the government, poor infrastructure, and political instability.

Pentagon gang kidnap try foiled

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Armed men said to belong to the Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom gang attempted but failed on Friday to snatch two members of a prominent family in Kiamba town, Sarangani, police said yesterday.

Sarangani police director Supt. Willie Dangane told the INQUIRER that six armed men led by a Mantil Montawal attacked the Barrientos residence at around 3 p.m. with the intention of abducting sisters Gemma and Ronalyn.

But the targets were not home at the time, Dangane said, and the apparently angered gunmen took away P1,000 in cash and other valuables before fleeing to nearby Barangay Nalos.

Dangane said a pursuit operation led to the arrest of three of the gunmen, one of whom he identified as a Macapagal Flores.

It was Flores who admitted that he and his cohorts belonged to the Pentagon gang led by Tahir Alonto, and who identified "Commander" Montawal as the leader of the attack on the Barrientos residence, Dangane said. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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A call from the 1,494 municipalities of the LMP

Amend the Constitution *NOW!*

I. Presidential politics has failed our people

FROM THE COUNTRYSIDE, the towns and villages, the often disparate voices of the Filipino people have come to a clear and unshakable conclusion: it is time to amend the 1987 Constitution *NOW*—not after the 2004 elections.

To initiate Charter revision this year, we endorse a Constituent Assembly of both houses of Congress that could accomplish the task in 60-90 days—and not a Constitutional Convention that would take years to finish—after endless debate and horse-trading.

One quick tour of our depressed communities will reveal the incredible poverty of our people. They are painful sights we are all too familiar with—and they sum up our argument for Charter reform: The present system of presidential politics has failed the Filipino people. Personality politics has replaced leadership based on party platform.

Aggravating this is the three-year cycle of national elections—and local and barangay elections scheduled in between. This has mired the country in a cycle of a perpetual political campaign.

This system cannot go on and on. We believe it is time to put a stop to this. This can be accomplished only through urgent Charter reform.

The League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP), with the League of Cities and the League of Provinces, thus joins forces with hundreds of people's organizations (POs) and civil society groups, non-government organizations (NGOs), religious and business organizations, and the Coalition for Charter Change NOW! to demand Charter amendment this year through a Constituent Assembly of Congress.

We applaud President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's courageous call for structural reforms in the political system—and a shift to a parliamentary government. She reflects the true sentiments of our people.

Without these reforms, the Philippines will remain a country left behind by Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore—and soon by Vietnam if we don't heed the call for reforms.

II. The Senate must not block path of reform

BUT THE PATH TO REFORM has been selfishly blocked by the Senate. A Senate without conscience, a Senate without a real constituency, a Senate that no longer seems to care about lifting people's lives from deep poverty.

Even in the face of this overwhelming call and clear national consensus, some Senators still refuse to go the way of Charter reform. They insist on their argument that it should be through a Concon, that it should wait until 2010.

These arguments no longer hold water.

They don't reflect the national sentiment.

They reflect only the Senators' blind ambition—their craving for personal interest and power. The LMP is tempted to ask: are they afraid to lose their positions of power and influence, their perks?

They must remember that they owe their positions to the people who elected them to high office to lead this country—not to hold it back. They should espouse the people's welfare—and not their own personal ambition for power.

III. We speak with the voices of millions of Filipinos

TODAY WE SPEAK with the voices of millions of our constituents from 1,494 (one thousand four hundred ninety-four towns) from across this country.

We demand Charter amendments NOW!

We demand that our people be liberated from decades of poverty through meaningful Charter reform!

We demand that our senators heed this call, rise above partisanship, and forget about the Senate investigations that are good only for giving them television exposure and media mileage.

It is time to remember your country, dear senators. Step aside and together let us work to achieve Charter reform.

The time for change is now. Not in 2004 or 2007 or 2010. The masses of our people are waiting to get a new start.

IV. The Senate must heed us—or we will strike back

IF THIS CALL IS NOT heeded by our senators, our people are ready to strike back. We are ready to lead the campaign against the re-election of those who oppose it. We are ready to launch a campaign to boycott senators opposing Charter change.

There is a sentiment for the abolition of the Senate. It is a movement that has gained momentum in recent days.

We are not for Senate abolition. But we might be forced, ultimately, to follow those who have led this campaign, if this call for Charter change through a Constituent Assembly is not heeded.

Charter reform NOW through a Constituent Assembly!

Advt.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2003

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Islamic nations tell US: Leave Iraq to UN

BAGHDAD—Islamic nations called Saturday for "the eviction of foreign forces from Iraq" as hundreds marched in a Shiite holy city to back a shadow cabinet formed by anti-US firebrand Moqtada Sadr after attacks claimed three more Iraqi lives.

The United Nations should take over the administration of Iraqi affairs "in accordance with a clear and short timetable," Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) secretary general Abdelouahed Belkeziz told senior officials preparing for a summit of the 57-member organization in Malaysia next week.

Islamic nations should commit themselves to "the eviction of foreign forces from Iraq, allowing the United Nations to administer Iraqi affairs, prelude to the restoration of Iraq's independence and to the rebuilding of what has been destroyed over the past 20 years, all in accordance with a clear and short timetable," he said.

However, on the sidelines of the conference a row over Turkey's decision to provide troops to the US-led occupation force in Iraq highlighted the divisions within the organization.

The head of the delegation from Iraq's US-appointed Governing Council, Riyad al-Fadhli, told reporters: "We don't like to have any peacekeeping troops from neighboring countries because it might cause problems inside Iraq."

But his Turkish counterpart, Tahsin Burcuoglu, insisted Turkish troops would be in Iraq to help the people and "will not be there as part of the occupation."

On the ground, hundreds marched in Najaf, 180 kilometers south of Baghdad, in support of the shadow cabinet announced by Sadr.

"We are ready to sacrifice our souls for you, Sadr," chanted the demonstrators as they roamed the streets of the city.

They were responding to a call by Sadr during his weekly sermon in the nearby town of Kufa Friday in which he announced the formation of a shadow cabinet.

"I have decided and I have formed a government made up of several ministries," the young cleric said.

"If you agree, I ask you to demonstrate peacefully in order to express your support."

Sadr, a radical who heads the thousands-strong Mehdi Army militia, was ignored by the US-led coalition in the formation of the Governing Council on which he is not represented. *AFP*

CHRISTMAS

PREPARE YOUR POCKETS, CHRISTMAS IS HERE
The US Postal Service has unveiled this year's Christmas stamp of the Madonna which is based on a painting done about 1520 by artist Jan Gossaert. AP

Scientist seeks share of Nobel

WASHINGTON—A prominent US scientist on Friday demanded a share of this year's Nobel Prize for medicine, accusing the award body of disgracing itself by giving the accolade to two other experts.

Raymond Damadian accused the Stockholm-based Nobel Prize committee of "attempting to rewrite history" with its award of the 2003 medicine prize to American scientist Paul Lauterbur and Briton Peter Mansfield for their work on magnetic resonance imaging (MRI).

Damadian believes he deserved the prize over the two, and took out expensive advertisements in the The New York Times and The Washington Post to fight his corner.

A disgruntled Damadian forked out some $200,000 to state his case of how he made the first crucial MRI discoveries and give testimonials from other scientists backing his claims.

MRI uses magnetic resonance to distinguish damaged cells in the body. Its use has led to the early diagnosis of cancer and other major illnesses, giving patients an early warning system they can use to fight disease.

Damadian first discovered the revolutionary technology in 1970.

However, the Nobel foundation on Monday awarded its prize for MRI work to Lauterbur and Mansfield, making no mention of Damadian.

Lauterbur and Mansfield are due to pick up their prize and $1.3 million in Norway on Dec. 10. *AFP*

Political squabbles weaken Palestinian Authority

JERUSALEM—The Palestinian Authority was sunk in the political mire Saturday, after newly installed premier Ahmed Qorei failed to get a working government in place amid an apparent struggle with ailing leader Yasser Arafat over sharing power.

In a development reminiscent of Qorei's ill-fated predecessor, Mahmud Abbas, who resigned in frustration last month, the dispute seems to hang on the thorny question of who will control the Palestinians' security services—the prime minister or Arafat.

Since Abbas resigned on Sept. 6 after less than five months on the job, the Palestinians have effectively been without a government.

That has allowed the 74-year-old Arafat to retake the reins of power, but at a time when there are serious questions about his health, fueled by western media reports quoting unidentified Palestinian sources.

Britain's Guardian newspaper said Wednesday that he had suffered a mild heart attack last week, while the US Time magazine said Thursday that he had stomach cancer.

Palestinian officials insisted Arafat had merely suffered a bout of intestinal flu, and had been given a clean bill of health by a team of Egyptian medics who examined him late Wednesday.

However, the last-minute cancellation of an important parliamentary session, which Arafat had been due to attend, prompted further speculation about the state of his health.

Israel and the United States refuse to deal with Arafat, accusing him of being responsible for the three-year-old Palestinian uprising and of the hundreds of Israelis killed in attacks by militants.

Pressure from Washington forced Arafat to appoint Abbas as the first-ever premier in April, and both the United States and Israel insisted that he—and now Qorei—dismantle Palestinian militant groups, which they describe as terrorists. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Bush hardens stand on Cuba

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush vowed on Friday to step up pressure on Fidel Castro, saying he would toughen enforcement of a ban on travel to Cuba and pave the way for more dissidents to flee. In remarks that won plaudits from many Cuban exiles in the politically important state of Florida and from pro-embargo lawmakers, Bush said he hoped the measures would deprive the communist-run government of cash and hasten a push for change. "Clearly, the Castro regime will not change by its own choice. But Cuba must change," Bush told a gathering in the White House Rose Garden. The administration is also setting up a commission, to be headed by Secretary of State Colin Powell and Cuban-born Housing Secretary Mel Martinez, to plan for Cuba's transition from one-party rule. *Reuters*

Indonesia remembers Bali bombings

BALI, Indonesia—Paddy's, one of two nightclubs bombed by terrorists a year ago, has reopened and is once again crowded nightly with smiling foreigners drinking cheap beer and swaying to the sounds of a local rock band. Bar manager Gusti Ketut Nurdiade, who survived the Oct. 12 blast that killed 202 people and was treated for extensive burns, relishes the packed house. But much like the popular tourist island, getting his old life back hasn't been so easy. "I'm suspicious of strangers and I can't get myself to look at photos of the bombing," Nurdiade said. "It's still all very traumatic. Sometimes my heart starts beating fast and I can't explain why. I just want to move on." Sunday is the first anniversary of the Bali bombings —the worst terror attack since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks in the United States. The bombings catapulted Indonesia into the front lines of the international war on terror and forced the world's most populous Muslim country to confront a growing extremist fringe in its midst. A year later, Bali's economy is coming back and most of the suspects are behind bars—three of them sentenced to death. US President George W. Bush is due to meet President Megawati Sukarnoputri on Oct. 22 in Bali to show his support. *AP*

Roh rejects Cabinet's resignation

ROH

SEOUL—South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun announced in a televised press conference Saturday that he had rejected the resignations of Prime Minister Goh Kun and his cabinet. His announcement came shortly after the resignations were submitted. "We need some people who maintain stability in the administration... I immediately rejected their resignations," Roh said. The resignations came a day after the president decided to seek a vote of confidence in his administration, possibly through a referendum, in a move seen as a make-or-break gamble aimed at shoring up his crumbling support. *AFP*

Cheney assails Iraq war critics

WASHINGTON—US Vice President Dick Cheney launched a fierce frontal assault Friday on critics of the war in Iraq, arguing that their approach of doing "exactly nothing" would cripple the global war on terrorism. "It comes down to a choice between action that assures our security and inaction that allows dangers to grow," he said in a speech to a friendly audience at the the conservative Heritage Foundation think tank here. "As long as George W. Bush is president of the United States, this country will not permit gathering threats to become certain tragedies," he said as the White House pursued a public relations offensive against critics of the war. The swiftly mounting cost of the US military presence in Iraq, reckoned in billions of dollars and a rising death toll [illegible] US troops could hurt the president's 2004 reelection bid. Opinion [illegible] how Bush's support ebbing and worries about the occupation rise, and [illegible]tion Democrats assail Bush's diplomacy for failing to get support in [illegible]m traditional allies or UN approval for the war. *AFP*

Grandma dragged to her death

LAUDERDALE LAKES, Florida—An 86-year-old woman dragged to the pavement by a minivan during a struggle with a purse-snatcher died Friday of her injuries. Gertrude "Trudi" Nadel was robbed of jewelry several weeks ago by two men posing as repairmen. Family members said they thought the incident led her to fight back after a man tried to swipe her purse in a drugstore parking lot Thursday. "She had been so easily duped, and so she thought to show she wasn't going to give in so easy this time," said her son, Richard Nadel. "It's really pretty disgusting they would prey on an old lady like that." *AP*

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Aide: Pope ailing but in charge

VATICAN CITY—Pope John Paul has health problems but is firmly in charge of the Roman Catholic Church, the Pope's top aide said.

POPE John Paul II at the Vatican Oct. 8

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Vatican's Secretary of State, said in an interview on Friday the media had not only exaggerated the Pope's ailments but had also overstated sex scandals that recently rocked the Church in the United States.

In a rare interview just days before the 25th anniversary of the Pope's election, Sodano hailed John Paul as a "messenger of peace" and said he had not been disappointed to have missed out on the Nobel Peace Prize earlier in the day.

Asked if the Pope was making daily decisions in running the one-billion-member Church, Sodano said: "Yes, yes, certainly, the activity goes on. We are a bit surprised to see all this public discussion (about the Pope's health)."

The health of the Pontiff, 83, who suffers from Parkinson's disease, has been under intense scrutiny recently. He has had difficulty speaking and had to miss a general audience two weeks ago because of an intestinal problem.

"We are all in the hands of God. As long as the Lord gives him strength he will remain at the tiller of the boat," said Sodano, who ranks second only to the Pope.

Speaking in his offices in the Vatican's Apostolic Palace, Sodano said the Pope could not be compared to the head of a company because he was a symbol as well as a leader.

"I'm not pretending that the Pope is fine, no. It is obvious that time passes for everyone... it is a law of life that someone who is 83 does not have the strength that he had when he was 33... but let's not engage in science fiction."

On Friday night, Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls denied a report by an Italian news agency that the Pope was undergoing dialysis. "The Pope has not undergone dialysis and there are no current plans for him to receive it," he said.

The Pope celebrates his 25th anniversary next Thursday and faces a strenuous week of public engagements that look certain to strain his frail health.

With the landmark nearing, many Catholics hoped Norway's Nobel Committee would award him its prestigious Peace Prize in recognition of his tireless crusade against war.

In the event, the committee announced on Friday that it had decided to honor Iranian human rights lawyer Shirin Ebadi.

"I think a human recognition can always be pleasing, but it's not that necessary," Sodano said.

The Pope opposed the US-led invasion of Iraq this year and Sodano said persistent violence and chaos since the fall of former leader Saddam Hussein showed that wars resolved nothing.

"(The Church) hopes that men of good will help (Iraq) so that it soon gets back its freedom and its sovereignty," said Sodano, dressed in his cardinal's black and scarlet robes with a golden crucifix around his neck.

The Catholic Church was rocked in the United States last year by revelations that several dioceses had transferred priests known to have abused children from parish to parish without alerting the public.

Sodano, a cardinal since 1991 when he was appointed as the Vatican's top diplomat, said the scandal had unfairly tainted thousands of virtuous priests. *Reuters*

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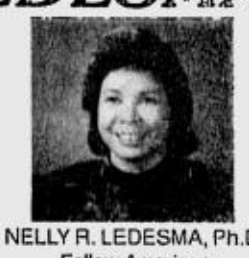

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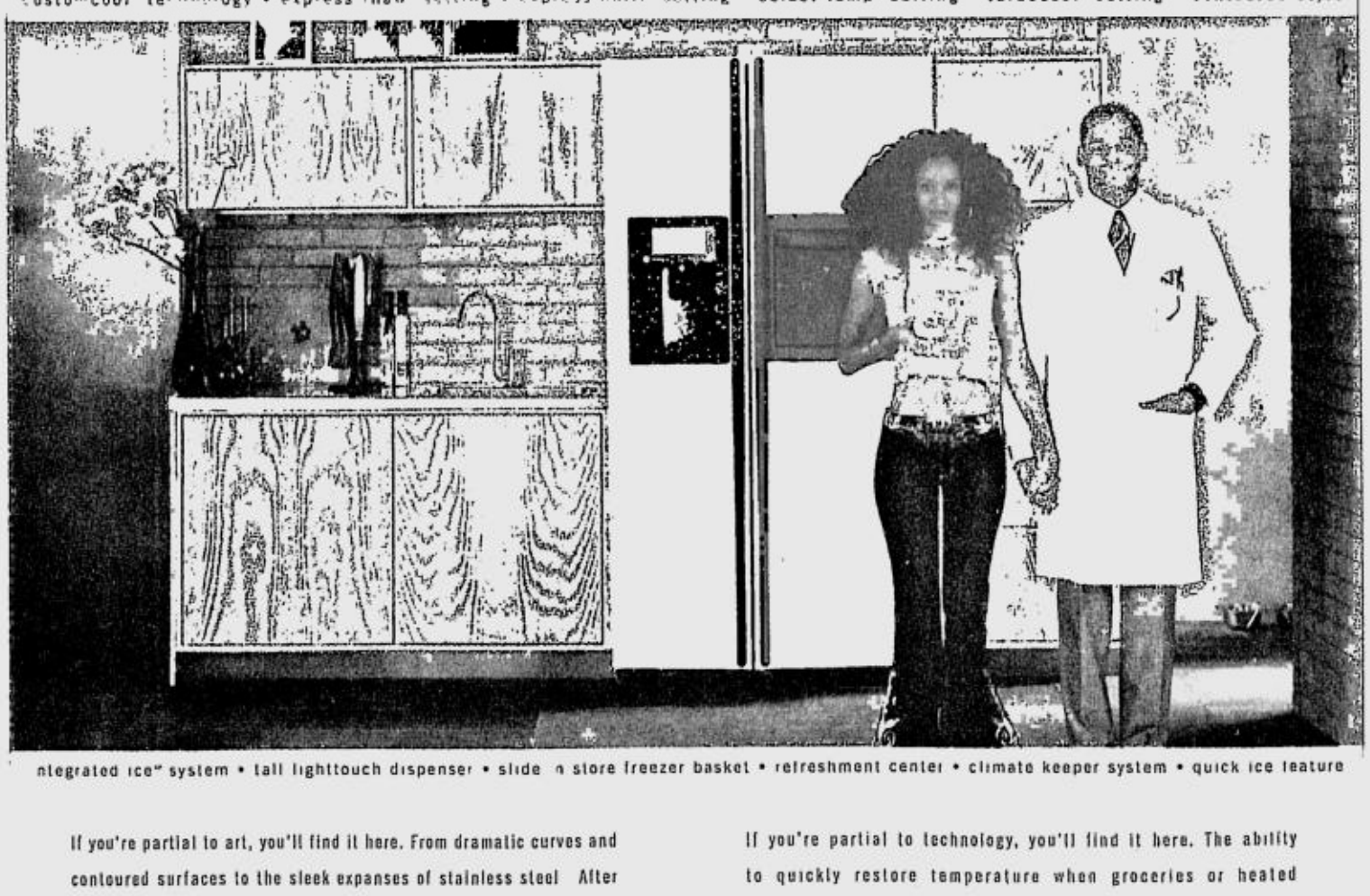

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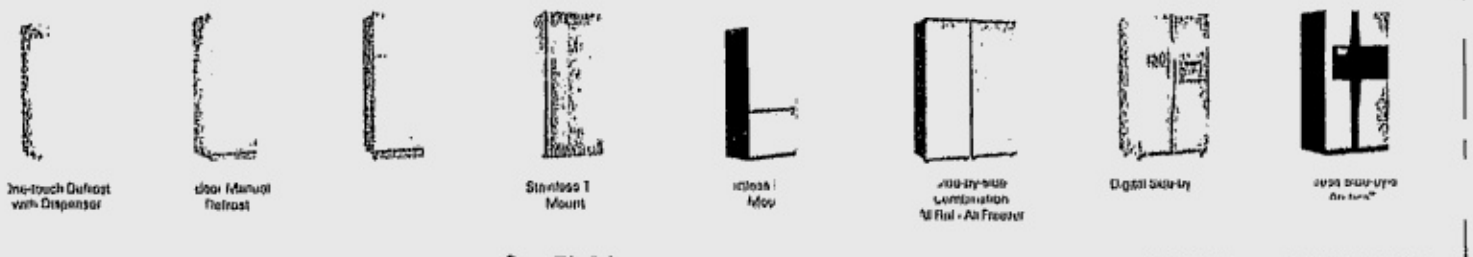

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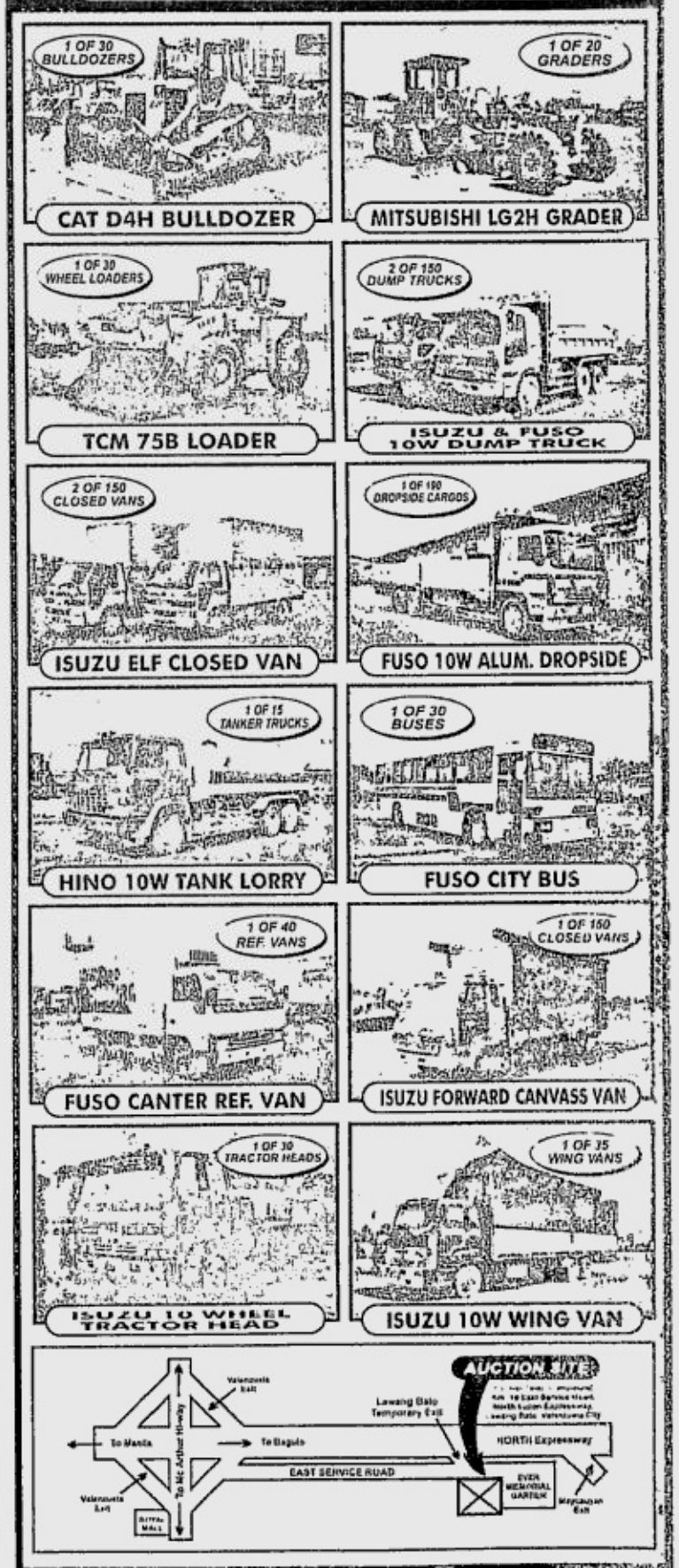

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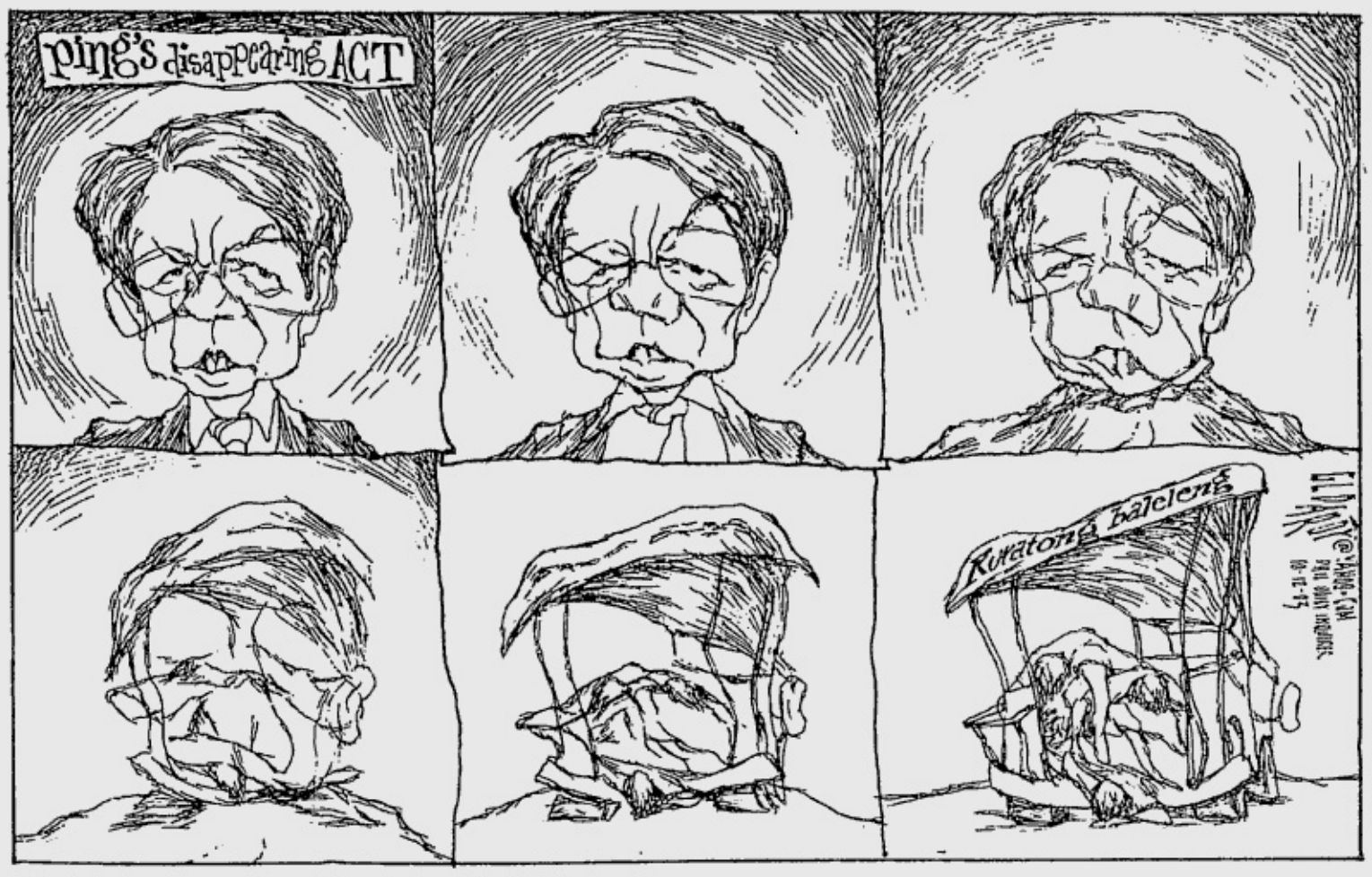

Gut feelings

EDITORIAL

A DAY after an expanded division of the Sandiganbayan lifted the 17-year-old sequestration orders on a significant bloc of shares in San Miguel Corp., in favor of SMC chief executive Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, maverick opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called for an inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the ruling.

"Deals have been made with the administration," Pimentel said on Thursday. "That's my gut feeling."

Pimentel, who was arrested four times during the Marcos era and served as a director on the San Miguel board during the time of President Corazon Aquino, predicted that Cojuangco, Marcos' favorite businessman and the founder of the Nationalist People's Coalition, will no longer run for president in next year's elections. "It's very likely," he said.

"It will be a big boost for the administration for the reason that it is now possible for President Macapagal-Arroyo to get the support of Cojuangco" for her own candidacy, Pimentel added.

He was not alone in communing with his feelings. On the very day the anti-graft court ruled against the Presidential Commission on Good Government, another maverick senator, the administration's Joker Arroyo, issued a statement, criticizing the decision and warning of possible horse-trading between President Macapagal and Cojuangco. Studied closely, his remarks reveal an elemental basis: his instincts, honed by decades in human-rights lawyering and politics.

At least in form, another legislator showed he was an alumnus of the guts-and-instincts school of politics. On Thursday, Bayan Muna party-list Rep. Crispin Beltran said the court ruling "smells strongly of under-the-table" compromises.

There is a crucial difference, however. Beltran, long a familiar sight in street protests, is a labor leader of the organized Left. Pimentel and Arroyo are lawyers—and thus by definition agents of the court.

Their status as senators does not exempt them from their responsibilities as role-players in the administration of justice. If anything, it raises expectations of higher standards. The constitutional provision disqualifying congressmen and senators from personally appearing as counsel before any court of justice or other tribunals can be understood not only as a measure to protect the courts from undue influence. It can also be read as an appeal for higher conduct.

Stripped to its essentials, what Pimentel and Arroyo said late last week was nothing less than an attack on the integrity of the Sandiganbayan. They owe the country, if not proof, then at least something more solid than gut feelings.

We hasten to add: Their claim that the ruling was part of a secret deal with Cojuangco may very well be true. Certainly, their political instincts have placed them on the right side of the road at turning points in our recent history.

We also seek to clarify: The media certainly were right in headlining their statements, because of who they were, what they said, and what their statements implied.

But, on a matter that is of fundamental importance, we expected more from Pimentel and Arroyo. Insider information, perhaps, or a leak from Malacañang or the anti-graft court, or originals of a decision before it was revised. That sort of thing. Instead, Pimentel relied on his gut instincts, and Arroyo on a speculative reading of one part of the decision, to reach the same conclusion: conspiracy.

The real story is not the President running in May 2004 with Cojuangco's support, if indeed that were the case. It is whether the judicial system, which confirmed the President's accession to power and is trying deposed President Joseph Estrada on plunder charges, is in fact the guarantor of this administration.

A secret deal as feared by Pimentel and Arroyo strikes at the heart of the whole legitimacy issue. It reopens old wounds, at a time when the body politic may no longer be able to survive the inevitable hemorrhage. We wish the two gut-spillers had made their point with the scalpel of reason, not the bludgeon of intuition.

Political opportunism

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

LET me add these two centavos worth of mine to the INQUIRER editorial last Sunday on Sen. Loren Legarda.

In criticizing the show-biz characters who have polluted the Senate, I have never intended to include her. My reason is that she does not deserve equal contempt simply because of her former ties to ABS-CBN as a newscaster. Besides her fluent reading of the teleprompter, she has respectable intellectual credentials the other entertainers do not have.

Additionally, she was one of the 11 senators who voted for the opening of the second envelope her 12 other colleagues chose to keep secret during the impeachment trial of Joseph Estrada. She was the only female senator who sided with the minority. What's more, she has a pretty head on her competent shoulders.

This does not mean, however, that I have agreed with everything she has done during her term in the Senate, to which she was overwhelmingly elected in 1998.

I questioned her unsolicited attempt to parley with Jose Ma. Sison in the Netherlands because it might interfere with the official negotiations being undertaken by the executive department. I also wondered if she had used public funds for her unauthorized mission, which she said she subsidized out of her own pockets.

Her "Loren Loren Sinta" program was out of taste if not actually indirect electioneering outside the campaign period prescribed by the Constitution. And there are the TV commercials and big print advertisements where she sells medicines as a sideline to her senatorial duties. That too is cheap election campaigning and unbecoming her position as a member of the Upper House.

And now she has left Lakas to be an independent legislator, she says, free to support or attack issues without the limitations and obligations of party discipline. After serving for five years in the Senate, she has suddenly discovered her conscience. She may argue that during all that time, every decision of her party then conformed to her own individual convictions. But why did she say she was leaving Lakas to free herself from partisan compulsions?

Despite her high-sounding excuse for her resignation from the administration party, many people doubt her sincerity. Her move, they say, was dictated by ambition. With President Macapagal-Arroyo already running again in 2004, she would have to choose a male candidate as her running mate. That would exclude Legarda from the Lakas presidential team.

As long as President Macapagal was out of the race by her own pledge, there was talk of Legarda running with Sen. Panfilo Lacson as her surrogate. This could be the reason she had delayed calendaring Committee Report No. 237 for deliberation by the Senate plenary, as charged by Sen. Joker Arroyo. Lacson's prospects have plummeted, however, and siding with him might be politically disastrous.

It is now conjectured that the resourceful lady senator, reportedly seen sometime ago with Eduardo Cojuangco at some public function, may be maneuvering to be his vice-presidential candidate. That is, of course, if he decides to run for the top office against the incumbent President Macapagal now that she is in the race again.

There is also the possibility, absurd as it may seem, that ABS-CBN will command Noli de Castro to run for President, which means that he will need an intelligent partner to make up for his academic deficiency. That may well be Legarda, who is as bright as she is beautiful. The *bakya* crowd will drool over this powerhouse ticket and forthwith install the two senatorial topnotchers in Malacañang.

And if not De Castro, why not Fernando Poe Jr.? FPJ is still titillating about being king not only of the movies but also at the Palace, never mind that he is not even a high school graduate. He and Loren will make a beautiful romantic couple, like the old comedy team of Fred and Gracie Allen in reverse.

Raul Roco has refused the vice-presidential slot with President Macapagal and may be looking for his own running mate. Could it be Legarda if no one else wants her? She seems to be desperate to run for the second highest office in the land even perhaps in a practically partyless tandem.

Finally, if all else fails, Legarda can run for re-election. Her first term has been impressive compared to those of her show-biz colleagues. Her Clean Air Act alone is no mean achievement that is recommendation enough for her retention in the public service. She won't have any problem affiliating with another party unless it is more expedient for her to return to Lakas, where she will also be welcome.

The point she is making is that she is open to any option that will make her vice president preparatory to her being President of the Philippines in due time. That is rank undisguised opportunism. If Legarda has proved anything with her partisan flirtations, it is the fickleness, insincerity and cynicism of her adjustable politics. It is a sad example to those who would follow in her wayward footsteps.

Letting go

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY is told about a young fellow who found a dollar on the road. From that time on, he never raised his eyes from the ground when he walked, hoping to find more. In the next 30 years, he found about $10, about 20 coins, 10,000 buttons, all sorts of pins etc., but he became a hunchback, a miser, with a grouchy disposition. All those years, he never looked up, never saw the beauty of sunshine, the smiles of friends and all things that make life worthwhile, because he kept looking for that dollar.

* * *

The Gospel today (Mk 10, 17-30) is about the man who went away sad, for he had many possessions. Jesus warns us again: "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the Kingdom of God." Money can make life convenient and easy, but the pursuit of money, the love of money can make life miserable, uneasy and unhappy. Are you going through life so engrossed in your search for the things that money can buy and have forgotten the things that money cannot buy?

* * *

When I hear of a person having millions, and even billions, I find myself asking again: Why? How much money does one need in this life? I mean, you can only spend so much in a day. Maybe they are making provisions for the children and the grandchildren down to the great grandchildren? The rich who are reading this now must be smiling and saying: "Father Jerry, if you were rich, you won't ask that question." Okay. Sorry I asked. Okay, I'm poor. But I'm happy. Are you?

* * *

The problem with some people is that they think they are migrants in this world. We are all tourists here, just passing by. "The world is merely a bridge. You are to cross over it and not make your dwelling on it" (inscription in an old mosque). Think again: What can you bring with you when you leave this world?

* * *

Here is a story of a young man who did not go away sad. Chito Lorenzo was a third year medical student when he answered the call. This young, handsome, only son gave up everything (including a girlfriend) and joined the Divine Word missionaries (SVD) and is now assigned in Japan. I met him when I went to Akita last May, and I saw in him a happy missionary who is loved and appreciated by his flock. If we think back, the happiest moments of our lives were when we let go, and the loneliest moments were when we refused to let go because of selfishness and greed.

* * *

Recently we were deluged with the story of a woman who gave up everything and risked everything for the man she loved. In the end, she ended up hurt and devastated. Real love. Wrong man. Such is the tragedy of human love. But with God, we are assured of faithfulness. And yet we barely love Him, and continue pursuing our other loves. If only we exerted as much effort in seeking God as we do in our pursuit of worldly pleasures and love. May we not end up saying "too late have I loved thee..."

* * *

In our "Concert for the Missions" at the Meralco Theater last Oct. 1, 2003, I experienced what being at the center stage literally was. When the lights are all focused on you, you hardly see the audience. You hardly know who are there with you. Such is the fate of people who are blinded by power, money, popularity and pleasures. It could be a very lonely life. And empty. And it doesn't last.

* * *

Still at the "Concert for the Missions," Fr. Erick Santos brought the house down with his natural and contagious sense of humor. He is funny, without even trying. What makes him so effective I think is his willingness to give himself, even make a fool himself, for the sake of others. *Give na give talaga*. He is one priest who knows how to be self-effacing to make the flock happy and see again the bright side of life. Father Erick, in so many ways, reminds us again of the "11th Commandment," i.e. "Do not take yourself too darn seriously!"

* * *

If I may use myself as an example, may I say in all humility, that the Lord indeed rewards those who left everything to follow Him. In my 23 years as a priest, and 16 years as a seminarian, I have met so many people who have taken me in as their son, their brother, their friend and have treated me as family. It was not easy to leave the family when I entered the seminary. Homesickness was a reality in my life at an early age. Along the way I had to let go and forego a lot of things. But my little sacrifices along the way are nothing compared to God's overflowing generosity.

* * *

Calling on men and women with generous hearts to serve the Lord in his vineyard. All of us are called to do our mission in this world, and if God is calling you for a mission as priest, Brother or Sister, please be generous. As a text message put it: The pay is not great, but the rewards are "out of their world."

* * *

A Moment with the Lord:

Teach me Lord to be generous, to let go and just embrace you. Amen.

It's time for GMA to promote Ebdane

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

TODAY is the first anniversary of the Bali bombing which took the lives of more than 200 people, including 88 Australian tourists. The attack, the deadliest so far in the region, was carried out by Muslim extremists belonging to the terror group Jemaah Islamiyah (JI). In Bali, a day of remembrance with Australian Prime Minister John Howard in attendance, will mark the event.

What is noteworthy about the attack is that less than a year after, Indonesian police were able to arrest some 30 suspects including the mastermind, Ali Ghufron a.k.a. Mukhlas, who was sentenced to death last Oct. 2. His younger brother, Amrozi, who served as the logistics coordinator of the group, was also meted the death penalty along with Imam Samuddrah. Another brother, Ali Imron, who helped build the bombs and position the van packed with explosives, was sentenced to life imprisonment. A Muslim cleric, Abubakar Ba'asyir, who is said to be the spiritual leader of JI was given a jail term of four years for treason.

The excellent police investigation which led to the arrest and conviction of the ringleaders, was credited to Gen. I. Made Mangku Pastika, Bali police chief, who was awarded the Indonesian President's Medal of Honor for his outstanding performance.

Last August, Thai police officials with CIA assistance, captured Ridduan Isamuddin a.k.a. Hambali, considered one of the world's most dangerous terrorists. A native of West Java, Hambali was Osama bin Laden's senior representative in the region and is believed responsible for many of the bombings across Southeast Asia. He was arrested in Ayutthaya, the ancient Thai capital, with his Malaysian wife and two al-Qaida operatives and is currently being held in Diego Garcia island for interrogation.

Earlier, in southern Thailand, police arrested three Thai nationals plotting to carry out a series of Bali-style car bomb attacks on five embassies—American, Australian, British, Israel and Singapore—in Bangkok. Also in their target list were the popular tourist resorts of Pattaya and Phuket.

In contrast, how is the Philippines doing in the war against terrorism?

David Wright-Neville of Monash University in Australia, says there are "doubts about Manila's ability to uphold its end of the regional counter terrorism effort."

A few months ago, President Macapagal-Arroyo hosted a visit by Australian Prime Minister John Howard. Among the subjects discussed by the two leaders was a joint effort at curbing regional terror threats, particularly coming from the JI. The Australian prime minister did not come empty-handed; he brought with him a A$5 million anti-terrorism aid package including funding for laboratories for detecting document fraud. Also promised were forensics experts to help study crime scenes.

In the middle of Howard's visit, President Macapagal was informed that the No. 1 terrorist in the hands of the Philippine National Police, Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, had just escaped from a security compound at Camp Crame.

A few days ago, while President Macapagal was attending a summit of Asean leaders in Bali, Indonesia, a suspected Abu Sayyaf member, Buyungan Bungkak, grabbed the M-16 rifle of his escort while undergoing a morning "sunbath" also in Camp Crame. He then proceeded to shoot his escort and two other policemen, before he was gunned down by SWAT members after a brief firefight.

Last Friday, Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill warned that the Philippines faces the greatest threat of an attack from the JI network. He was immediately shut down by National Security Advisor Roy Golez and Interior Secretary Joey Lina.

* * *

I have lost count of the number of terror bombings in Mindanao. We have gotten so used to them that at times they're no longer headline stuff. Has anyone been arrested, anyone been prosecuted and convicted, like the Bali bombers?

There have been several "great escapes" from our detention centers involving drug suspects, ordinary criminals and terror detainees which highlight our porous penal system. But when these things take place inside Camp Crame, the headquarters of the PNP, making us the laughingstock of the region, someone must assume responsibility and suffer the consequences. Has anyone been punished? Not just relieved and put on "floating status," but sent to jail for dereliction of duty?

What must be done if we are to restore our credibility in the regional effort to combat terrorism?

First and foremost, we need new leadership in the PNP. We don't expect our officials to commit *hara-kiri* when things go wrong in their departments, but our people expect someone to answer for the blunders that take place especially when they cause embarrassment to the nation.

Unfortunately, our President has her way of dealing with these matters. When she fired Roberto Lastimoso as LTO chief, she kept him at the DOTC with the rank of assistant secretary. After she accepted the resignation of Brig. Gen. Victor Corpus as chief, ISAFP, she gave him another high-profile job as chief, Civil Relations Service, AFP. And when she sacked Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes, she later appointed him ambassador-at-large for counterterrorism.

Perhaps, in the case of PNP Chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., she can also soften the blow by promoting him somewhere. Ebdane is a decent, hard-working official and I say this with all sincerity. But it is time for change as there is a greater interest that needs to be addressed. It is the national interest and national honor which are at stake.

Shabby treatment of the judiciary

COMMENTARY

Raul J. Palabrica

SOMETHING is wrong somewhere if a senator can whimsically prevent the enactment into law a bill that has been approved by both chambers of Congress and the bicameral conference committee.

On the pretext that increasing the salaries and allowances of judges and court personnel will not reduce corruption in the judiciary, Sen. John Osmeña has blocked the Senate's approval of the conference committee report. His unsavory remarks prompted the judges who trooped to the Senate last week to lobby for the bill's passage to walk out.

The judges cannot be faulted for their action. Going to the Senate to practically beg for money was difficult enough. To be insulted to their face by someone whose record for honesty and integrity is spotty was just too much to bear. Had they foreseen Osmeña's put down, they would have probably joined instead their colleagues who went on leave and picketed the government buildings where they hold court.

Unlike other government personnel, judges are not known for resorting to "extra legal" measures to attract public attention to the problems they encounter in the performance of their duties and responsibilities. It would demean the office that His Honor represents if he or any of the people under him picks up a placard and goes the way of striking workers.

But the men and women who make the wheels of justice run in this country have had enough of government neglect. The light at the end of the tunnel of their 13-year struggle for realistic salaries and allowances does not appear to be in sight.

Across-the-board

With less than five months to go before the senators and congressmen jump into the 2004 election frenzy, the salary adjustments have to be enacted into law before the end of the year. Otherwise, the court personnel may have to wait for another one or two years to have that bill included in the legislative calendar of the succeeding congressional sessions.

That the court personnel deserve an increase in their compensation is no longer in question. The last time they received a salary adjustment was during President Fidel Ramos' time when a 10 percent increase payable over a four-year period was granted to all government employees.

In the meantime, the pay envelopes of other government personnel were quietly thickened by way of exemptions from the Salary Standardization Law or schemes that allowed the realignment of budgetary allocations (read: juggling of funds) to cover additional monetary benefits.

So we have the ridiculous situation of a janitor of the Government Service Insurance Service getting a monthly salary (P27,000) bigger than that of a regional trial court judge! This is not to belittle the work of that janitor, but certainly a job that requires a four-year college course and law degree, and whose output can make or break people's lives, deserves a much higher salary.

When the starting salary of new lawyers in private law offices does not go below P50,000, it should not come us a surprise if 30 percent of the courts in the country remain vacant. Heavy workload and low pay are strong disincentives to joining the judiciary in whatever capacity.

Fiscal deprivation

For a supposedly co-equal branch of government, the judiciary is a pauper compared to the executive and legislative departments. Of the proposed P865-billion budget for 2004, the judiciary's allocation is a measly P7.8 billion, or 0.9 percent of the country's anticipated revenue for next year.

This amount shall be used to pay the salaries of some 25,000 justices, judges and court personnel all over the country and the purchase of the supplies and equipment needed to keep the wheels of justice moving. Sadly, there are no provisions for the maintenance, much less the construction, of court rooms. The judges have to rely on the generosity of local government units for those facilities. But the problem is, not all cities and municipalities have the cash to spare to enable the court personnel to have decent working premises.

In marked contrast, for this year, the Senate allocated for itself a whopping P6 billion to cover the salaries, allowances, junkets and other privileges of its members and staff. The actual number of regular Senate employees and those assigned to the senators' offices is confidential. The senators are free to employ as many employees—ghost or otherwise—that their budgetary allocation for staff support can handle.

And what did the country get in return for that P6 billion? An endless parade of investigations that were long on hype but utterly short on substance. The senators do not know whether they want to be Sherlock Holmes or legislators.

For that staggering sum, the Senate's output consists of, among others, a law regulating the use of chain saws (how profound!), an amendment of the Family Code that will allow illegitimate children to carry the surname of their consenting fathers (how protective of the products of their illicit affairs!) and the dual citizenship law that enables the lawmakers' children who are American citizens to maintain their political dynasties.

Message

There's more than meets the eye in Osmeña's opposition to the proposed salary adjustment for court personnel. The "corruption in the judiciary" issue is just a smoke screen. If the state of corruption in a government office is determinative of the salaries of its employees, then the senators and congressmen should not receive a single centavo.

It is common knowledge that when a member of Congress publicly announces his opposition to a bill, he's actually sending a subtle message to the affected party to give him the special attention that, in his opinion, he deserves. It's an ego trip of sorts for lawmakers who suffer from low self-esteem.

After the opposition is lifted, the lawmaker expects that his action be looked upon as a debt of gratitude that the concerned party should repay in the future when the opportunity presents itself.

The hyped-up opposition is also used to extract concessions from the bill's beneficiary. The deliberations on the bill are purposely held up or onerous conditions are imposed for its passage until the lawmaker's demands (usually for personal gain) are met. The two chambers of Congress seem to have perfected the art of holding a bill hostage to a member's whims and caprices.

If the court personnel were authorized to carry firearms and brandish them in protest, their salary adjustment would probably have been approved long before.

'Cabbages and Condoms'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BANGKOK—Very much a part of the tourism scene in this city is "Cabbages and Condoms," a restaurant put up to provide financial support for the Population and Community Development Association (PDA), Thailand's foremost non-government charitable organization.

Founded by Sen. Mechai Viravaidya, better known in Thailand and around the world as the country's "Mr. Condom," PDA was born out of his own conviction that family planning alone, or having smaller families, cannot alleviate the poverty of Thailand's rural families. As he told participants at the recently-concluded Asia Pacific Conference on Reproductive and Sexual Health, countries "need a combination of reproductive health and economic development" before they can truly fulfill the total human development of its people.

Thus, PDA has organized units all around Thailand, organizing communities and rural development projects that range from rural industrial development, vegetable "banking," even village democracy, as well as educational programs and scholarships, HIV/AIDS education and environmental protection.

Its flagship establishment is "Cabbages and Condoms" Bangkok, a restaurant set amid a lush garden setting that's reached via a narrow lane branching off from one of the city's busiest thoroughfares. Its intriguing name is based on Mechai's contention, so a sign says, that "condoms should be as widely available as vegetables in a market." And true enough, condoms are an ubiquitous symbol throughout the garden, the restaurant itself and the souvenir shop.

A small box by the entry way reminds customers that "we have no mints but we have condoms," urging everyone to select at least one condom among such classifications as "Siberia size" and "Sahara size."

Inside the air-conditioned restaurant, some table tops contain glassed-in cases that contain vari-colored rubbers. On the walls are posters and photos extolling the value of family planning, including a huge "Mona Lisa" print that shows the iconic smiling lady clutching a packet of pills.

* * *

OUR party had gone to the restaurant for dinner, hosted by Rep. Neric Acosta and his Thai wife, Karina, who teaches comparative literature and women's studies at a local university. In the party were Neric's colleagues in the House: Rep. Bellaflor Angara Castillo—who, together with Acosta, was among the speakers in the APCRSH's last day plenary with parliamentarians on reproductive health legislation—Rep. Kriselle Lagman Luistro, Rep. Nerissa Soon Ruiz, and former congresswoman Edith Villanueva, and Neric's sister Malu, who were delegates to the conference.

Good news had preceded the legislators' gathering: the House Committee on Health had finally endorsed House Bill 4110, the Reproductive Health Care Act, for discussion on the floor. At the end of the APCRSH's final plenary, the Filipino delegates rushed to the stage to celebrate the passage of the bill at the committee level. But the bill's authors, advocates and supporters have still a lot of work ahead of them, facing not just a grueling battle for its passage by the House but by the Senate as well.

Anyway, our group was in an understandably upbeat mood that night, our good spirits bolstered by the restaurant's setting which partook of a lighthearted look at the serious matter of reproductive health.

* * *

WE had the time of our lives at the souvenir shop, ogling at posters and T-shirts that poked fun at the establishment's symbol. "Safe Sex for All," proclaimed a poster and T-shirt, adorned with condoms of all shapes, sizes and "attitudes." There was a condom colored like the striped hide of a tiger, billed the "Tarzan" condom. A condom with a safety pin on the side was for the "punk." A condom wearing a woolen cap was for the "skier," while one with a ball-shaped tip was for the "golfer." One condom even wore a tie, for the "businessman."

But we felt sorriest for a condom that seemed to be wilting, billed for the "pessimist."

Of course, there was plenty more of the real thing—condoms, I mean. Condoms shaped into flowers placed by the door; into brooches; and key chains, even earrings, for sale.

The display window also carried copies of "From Condoms to Cabbages," a book on the life of Mechai and his remarkable journey from Thailand's "Mr. Condom" to worldwide celebrity (you should have seen the Pinoy delegates rushing to him for souvenir photos).

* * *

BROCHURES at the Bangkok restaurant also advertised other "Cabbages and Condoms" establishments, such as a resort and restaurant in Pattaya, situated amid a tropical rainforest along Hu-Gwang Bay, and another resort and restaurant in Nangrong. As with the original restaurant, the establishments promise that "our food is guaranteed not to cause pregnancy."

As Mechai is fond of recounting, he had hit upon the idea of using the condom as the symbol of his entire campaign on family planning because it elicited strong reactions, from humor to shock to embarrassment. "And once people get over their initial reactions to the condom, then they're ready to listen to your messages about family planning and reproductive health," he asserts.

I don't know if we'll ever have a branch of "Cabbages and Condoms" in the Philippines, or even a facsimile of it. I remember that my friend Jomar Fleras, who was also at the conference, once attempted to open such an establishment until religious groups pressured Makati City Hall into revoking his permit. Now Jomar operates a shop selling sex toys, sexy garments and condoms in Malate. I don't know. Maybe we're more comfortable dealing with the steamy side of sex than laughing at it.

Why Gloria is running

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IN DECEMBER 2002, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo felt so discouraged about how the country was faring under her leadership that she found herself suddenly announcing she was not standing for election in 2004. The decision jolted even her closest allies who were only too aware of her consuming quest for another six-year term.

By then, two years had passed since the presidency fell on her lap. The euphoric expectations that attended the overthrow of an incompetent and corrupt presidency had all but evaporated. Hopes for reform lay buried under a series of compromises forged by a fixation with 2004. The public was restless again. The President saw that she was the focal point of the relentless politicking that plagued the country. She said she was sacrificing her political ambition to begin a national healing process that would permit the government to do its work. The announcement was widely applauded as a new beginning.

Nine months later, she is still talking of personal sacrifice, but this time what she is offering to give up is no longer political ambition but the pleasure of retirement. The country is as divided as ever, she admits. But instead of being heckled into retirement, she is now accepting the challenge of continued service, citing the experience she has gained as President as an advantage the country should not waste. What experience is she talking about? Experience at using political power to perpetuate political power?

Since she became President, GMA has shown nothing but the same ruthless readiness to treat top government offices as political spoils to be distributed to those who have no other qualification but personal loyalty to her. Edsa II was a revolt against the culture of patronage. But instead of dismantling this pre-modern political culture, GMA began her presidency by enforcing its logic. This went on even after she announced her retirement from politics.

As a political observer, I have learned not to assign too much weight to the reasons that politicians give for their actions. I find that they have no trouble citing the same value to justify two diametrically opposed decisions. More crucial to understanding political behavior is the analysis of conditions that make certain outcomes possible.

After GMA announced her withdrawal from politics, the public started to look to other leaders for new visions. This was a public fed up with politics. For a while Raul Roco was the most attractive alternative. Young educated Filipinos, who formed the constituency of Edsa II, looked to him for leadership. Unfortunately, Roco failed to rise above the generalities that all politicians mouth when they aspire for the presidency. What the public was looking for was someone with a clear view of the road ahead, unequivocal about his priorities. For some puzzling reason, Roco became quiet when he needed to be heard more.

Then Danding Cojuangco entered the picture, promising a form of expertise bred in the corporate world. Politicians crossed party lines to endorse his candidacy. But the excitement over Cojuangco proved to be short-lived. As it turned out, it was not his past as a Marcos crony that hobbled him so much as his image as a wealthy politician who had almost nothing to say about mass poverty. No matter how his publicists tried to invest him with a common touch, the *masa* could not identify with him. The low ratings he got with the D and E crowd attest to this.

On the other hand, Ping Lacson, who started out as an improbable presidential aspirant, managed to command serious attention with his no-nonsense approach to public issues. He was always forthright with his answers to questions. He resonated the public's contempt for politicians, and he consistently spoke in an idiom that instantly connected him to the *masa*. He also succeeded in impressing a segment of the middle class that was fed up with rampant criminality and police corruption. But Lacson has a long way to go. He is a single-issue candidate. His readiness to resort to malicious innuendo in his campaign to nail down the First Gentleman for corruption and money laundering has left a bad taste in the mouth. The nation is looking for a statesman, not a rumormonger.

Gloria saw that none of the presidential aspirants has been able to capture the public imagination. In the meantime, she regained her self-confidence after a well-publicized state visit to the United States. Her foreign trips gave her many opportunities to show her mettle as an Asian leader. The Filipino intelligentsia justly derides her for her sycophancy to George W. Bush Jr., but in a country where pro-Americanism is a religion, that is hardly a disqualification. The Oakwood mutiny was the turning point for her. She was determined to crush it, no matter what the cost. The surrender of the mutineers completely restored her spirit.

Anyone in her position after Oakwood would have been very stupid to give up the presidency. Today GMA imagines herself as God's anointed. In the midst of so much political mediocrity, she has come to a full realization of her powers. She projects strength and resoluteness. Filipinos like that in their leaders. All this means that Gloria will be very difficult to dislodge. If she wins, it will almost be by default.

Only a leader with a populist appeal and a clear pro-poor agenda, someone untainted by politics, can mount a formidable challenge against her. Even if he or she loses, the sheer candidacy of such a leader would have the immediate effect of dispelling the political cynicism that has corroded our country's public life.

* * *

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Editor **Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.**

Did GMA make the right decision?

POWER is said to be the most difficult thing to give up. Maybe because it is considered by some as the absolute aphrodisiac. Jiang Qing, third wife of Mao Zedong and member of the Gang of Four, which was accused of plotting against the State, was reported to have said that power was better than sex because the latter was too fleeting.

By announcing on Oct. 4 that she was reversing her decision not to run in the May elections, President Macapagal-Arroyo succumbed to the "temptation" of holding on to power. For her, serving the three-and-half years of the unfinished term of deposed President Joseph Estrada is not enough. She wants six more years in Malacañang.

Although her approval ratings have sunk to their lowest levels since she came to power in 2001, Ms Macapagal must have felt that the odds of winning in the coming presidential election are in her favor. The advantages of being the incumbent President must have emboldened Ms Macapagal to run.

The Supreme Court decision calling for the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case, which is expected to result in the arrest of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson and the lifting of the sequestration order on 20 percent of the shares of San Miguel Corp. being claimed by Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. must have also influenced Ms Macapagal's decision.

To get a sense of how Filipinos feel about the President's decision to run, the INQUIRER bureaus interviewed people in Luzon, the Visayas and Mindanao. The results should be not taken as a reflection of the views of the electorate because the respondents were not chosen randomly.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

She should give others a chance

How can we now teach our children the values of truthfulness and honesty? What if they answer back: Well, GMA does not keep her word, either. Her decision to run will not be good for the country because she is not an effective President. With all the crises we have had under her administration, can you imagine what will happen to our country if she becomes President again for the next six years? *Rizzalyn Almeron, housewife, Solano, Nueva Vizcaya*

GMA's decision to run makes us students and newly registered voters confused. There are other winnable candidates better than she is. She should give them a chance. Besides, she has already served the country for the last three years and four months. That's enough. *Madel Siapno, college publication staff writer, Bicol University*

The country is better off with her than with other candidates. The best interest of the nation should be our priority. Where will it lead us if our choices are limited to Ping or Danding or FPJ? *Asis Perez, director, Tanggol Kalikasan-Southern Tagalog, Tiaong, Quezon*

No. She has no word of honor. That is unacceptable. Her government will suffer from lack of support from the people because she has lost our trust. *Anthony Samuel, seminarian, Banate, Iloilo*

The President's decision to run again was contrary to what she promised in December 2002. When she broke her promise, it cemented the perception of people from other countries that we Filipinos do not keep our word. It is detrimental to us Filipinos. She's disgusting. *Regal Oliva, city employee, Tacloban, Leyte*

She has no sense of history

She missed the boat of greatness when she reneged on her pledge not to run. She has no sense of history. Her father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, also promised not to run for reelection but in the end reneged on it. The elder Macapagal lost to the late President Ferdinand E. Marcos in 1965. *Henry Briguera, trial lawyer, Naga City*

She is no longer credible. People will cast doubts on the result of the election because she is the incumbent president. She may use this in order to win. At first, I supported her but because of the many unresolved problems in our country, I don't like her anymore. *Reynaldo Salamat, instructor, Bulacan State University*

It's bad, bad, bad for the country. For the President, lying to her constituents is leading a nation. *Conrado Lim, tricycle driver, Ilagan, Isabela*

I will still choose her. There's no other equally qualified candidate. She is a learned and experienced President. She is a tough President who represents the country abroad with dignity and respect. Let us give her a chance to be elected President. *Jovita Bautista, retired GSIS employee, San Jose, Bulacan*

She didn't make the right decision. It will not be good for the country because she showed us the kind of leader she would be if elected for the next six years. *Jerry Gerong, student, Cagayan de Oro*

No! In the first place, she does not deserve to continue as President of this country. Corruption is worse. It's better for the country to have a president whose policies are different from hers. *Vice Mayor Juvy Magsino, Mindoro Oriental*

It's not right. She already gave her word. It will not help improve our situation. *Katherine (refused to give her last name), food kiosk vendor, Iloilo City*

She made the right decision because she's better than any other presidential hopeful. Just tell her husband to get lost. *Nicetas Katigbak, businessman, Lipa, Batangas*

Her decision is good for country

She made the right and timely decision. There are things that you don't like to do but for a higher cause you have to do it. GMA believes she has to offer herself to the nation, and it is good for the country as a whole. *Cotabato City Mayor Muslimin Sema*

No, the President should not have reneged on her word not to run. It is really disgraceful to have a President who says one thing and does another. She said she wanted to continue her programs, but couldn't other leaders do it? She does not have a monopoly of good intentions and we deserve a better leader. *Ricardo Tan, tricycle driver, Lingayen, Pangasinan*

It was a bad decision. It shows she is a leader who does not keep her word, easily swayed by people around her. Her decision is not good for the country. No one will believe her anymore. *Flora May Padua, retired teacher, Agoo, La Union*

This is one of the country's problems and perhaps one of the causes of the rampant graft and corruption in government—a leader says one thing but does another. That's lying. She lied to herself and to the Filipino people. *Bannuar de Pasion, member, Gunglo dagiti Mannurat nga Ilocano, San Fernando City*

Everybody has the right to change his/her decision. If she feels it's alright, she's entitled to that. *Fr. Carlo Ilagan, rector, Shrine of Our Lady of Caysasay, Taal, Batangas*

No law prohibits her from running

Her decision to run will benefit our country. She was able to establish ties with other leaders. Let us admit that at this time, we are still dependent on other countries' assistance. To improve our country she can use whatever relationships she has been able to establish with other leaders of the world in her almost three years in Malacañang. *Adelfo Rupa, Palo town, Leyte*

Her decision will prove to be her undoing—the epitome of contradiction. But let her run so that she'll reap the fruits of what she has sown. *Pastor Noel Suministrado, United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Lucena*

She made the right decision since no law prohibits her from seeking the presidency next year. I and all the town mayors of Maguindanao have passed a resolution urging her to run even before she decided on Oct. 4 because we believe in the continuity of her effective governance. *Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan*

The President made a bad decision because you cannot trust a person who does not keep her word. It is not good for the country to be led by her again. We need badly a leader who can inspire us to move, to work not only for ourselves but for the country as well. *Virgilio Cabading, medical practitioner, San Fernando City*

Her decision to run for re-election is the right answer to her party's clamor for her to divulge her plans for 2004. She is the best among the presidential hopefuls. She would be in a better position to govern and implement reforms if elected. *Cres Aspiras, journalist, Pogo, La Union*

Laos na siya (She's a has-been). Her administration, including First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, is bedeviled with graft and corruption, and a change of administration is a better option so that our country will prosper. Our country has been mired further in debt. Even unborn children have inherited debts and she has failed to address the problem. *Caroline de la Cruz, casual government employee, Ilagan, Isabela*

She ruined her name by her decision to run. That's why she cannot blame anybody for disliking her for that. However, it seems that there is no other better presidential candidate than her. She is the most qualified candidate. Only wise and intelligent voters will vote for her in next year's elections. *Fortunato Dionisio, former overseas worker, Hagonoy, Bulacan*

My answer is a big NO! She has no word of honor. So she has no right to lead our country. *Ruperto Aleroza, chair, Samahan ng Maliliit na Mangingisda ng Calatagan, Batangas*

I doubted her sincerity when she declared last year that she would not run. It was political gimmickry. She has not done anything for the Philippines except to strengthen US exploitation of this country. *Fr. Antonio Ablon, Philippine Independent Church, Tagoloan, Misamis Oriental*

She did country a disservice

She committed a grave error when she broke her promise not to run for President. Now, there's only one voice I hear from the populace: She has no *palabra de honor*. She did our country a great disservice. *Mely Borja, president, Pagkakaisa-Nueva Ecija Ladies Group, Cabanatuan*

I do not subscribe to what she did however she justifies it. Leaders must think clearly before they say something. *Lulu Tison, member of the Peace Advocates of Negros, Bacolod*

She should stick to her promise not to run anymore. She betrayed us all by making us believe she was sincere in setting aside politics for the common good. It will only give her enemies reason to criticize her, and our country will never benefit from too much politics. *Lourdes Mendez, waitress, Olongapo*

She made the right decision to end all doubts. Now that she's running for President, let us first know what her plans are if she gets elected. She may need another term to continue her projects and alleviate poverty in the country. *Maribeth Dilag, office clerk, Olongapo*

She is inconsistent with her decisions and principles. It will not be favorable for our country. Why? Because she doesn't have the charisma and the ability to work with people to gain their allegiance and support. She enjoys power too much. That's why she doesn't want to give it up. *Annalyn Mendoza, professional, Pangil, Laguna*

She won't be any good to the country since our government is getting worse. She is more repressive to civil society than the former administration. *Karl Vincent Queipo, relief and rehabilitation coordinator of an NGO, Davao City*

The President's decision is aimed at stabilizing our economy. It's advantageous to our economy because her victory will bring back the confidence of foreign investors in our country. *Rodante Cansino, general manager Paramount Footwear Inc., Bataan Economic Zone*

It's her moral duty to run

The decision to run in 2004 is an altruistic sacrifice of a beleaguered woman, knowing that those who oppose her will always endeavor to besmirch her reputation, puncture her credibility and wound her integrity. This is because even before her decision, she and her family had been maligned, vilified and subjected to debasing criticisms, black propaganda and vitriolic attacks by political vultures obsessed to grab power.

Thus, her decision is a manifestation of her moral duty and responsibility as a national leader to our country and people. It is a selfless patriotic act, because instead of seeking freedom from the vagaries of politics, and enjoying the pleasure of being ensconced in the comfort of retirement, she preferred to face the challenges posed by national problems. *V. Ley Leyretana, deputy presidential assistant for Mindanao Development*

The students are tired of hearing promises. If GMA can reverse decisions that easy, she can as well neglect reforms especially on the education sector. *Nina Catherine Calleja, UPLB student, BS Economics*

GMA made the wrong decision. How can the Filipino people vote for her in the coming election when she has no word of honor? The people have lost confidence in her. *Ana Marie Belleza, office clerk, Balanga, Bataan*

She made the right decision because if she wins, it will be good for the country due to her experience and her being a trained economist. *Art Buenafe, farmer, Palacapac, Candon, Ilocos m Norte*

Like anyone else, she has the right to be respected for her decision. If she thinks she can still contribute more for the betterment of our nation, why not? GMA has somehow proven her worth. It is just a matter of how people view them. Maybe, it's time for us to learn how to look at things objectively. Her contributions to our country are indications of hope. *Fr. Philip Atienza, Diocesan Social Action director, San Pablo Diocese, Laguna*

She will not make it

GMA should not run after all the mess. She will not make it. *Leo Ramos, professor, Lyceum of Batangas.*

Among the presidential aspirants, she is still the intelligent choice. The impoverished majority may not have felt or seen the good things she has done to them because of the kind of politics we have. But the thing is, she has given her best to lead the highly fragmented Filipinos to a better life. *Therese Barsilon, private employee, Mati, Davao Oriental*

Three years are not enough for her to alleviate the problems of our country. Her programs for reforms are very much limited. So, deciding to run will be a very noble thing for GMA to do in order to continue her economic, social, and political reforms. *Antonio Mercader, government employee, Legazpi*

She has failed the people. First, in her promise when she was propelled to the presidency during People Power II; second, in her promise not to run so she can focus on her work and not on politicking. Her promises were all empty. The plight of the poor worsened and the number of human rights violations increased because of her brutal war against terrorism and puppetry to George W. Bush. *Arman Albarillo, human rights worker, Calamba, Laguna*

She couldn't have chosen a much better time to make her announcement. She didn't have the chance to make the announcement when the Jose Pidal issue was still raging. Now, after she made her announcement that she will run for president next year, we see that politicians are doing a *balimbing* (turncoat) act and are running to her party. *Bonifacio Arances, gardener, Dumaguete*

I am not in favor of her breaking her vow not to run. What we need are politicians who keep their word. We have lost those kinds of leaders. However, she appears to be the strongest candidate for 2004. *Andy Hagad, lawyer, Bacolod*

(Interviews by PDI Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao Bureaus, and PDI Central Luzon Desk)

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Son's candidacy keeps Lapid edgy

LAPID

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Gov. Manuel Lapid has threatened to bolt the administration Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats if the party or President Macapagal-Arroyo picks a candidate for governor other than his son Mark.

A Lakas source said Lapid, the provincial party chair, conveyed the plan to his aides even as he told reporters last Monday that the President had already approved the party's endorsement of Mark.

"He did not explicitly say he would leave the party but said he would remind the President he has his own party to support his son's candidacy," the source said of Lapid's possible next move.

Lapid, interviewed by mobile phone on Thursday, confirmed having a contingency plan for his 25-year-old son.

Mark, chair of the Association of Barangay Captains, sits in the provincial board as an ex-officio member. He used to represent the youth sector until the 1998 elections.

"Mark will still run should the party or the President changes mind on endorsing my son," Lapid said in Filipino.

In such an event, he said his own party, the Lingap Lugud, would carry his son's candidacy and even that of the President, whose father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal, is from Pampanga.

Pressed for answers on what he would do should Lakas dump Mark and opt to select instead Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, Lapid replied: "*Okay na si* Mark. *Kung hindi, may sarili naman akong* party."

The fate of Lapid's son in the May 2004 elections faced uncertainty as some Kapampangan leaders, notably businessmen, appealed to the President to instead go for Rodriguez if she really had the interests of Pampanga in mind.

Rodriguez, a human rights lawyer and former provincial administrator, was one of the prosecutors in the impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

According to the source, the local and even the national Lakas was torn over Lapid's supposed popularity among the masses and Rodriguez's integrity and record of untarnished honest government service.

Another Lakas source said Ms Macapagal had realized that the popularity of Lapid had diminished when the crowd greeted Lapid without the usual adulation during last Saturday's congress of senior citizens at the Expo Pilipino in Clark. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Cops preparing this early for Nov. 1 exodus

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—More than 200 policemen and recruits are securing some 300 kilometers of national roads and nearly 40 public cemeteries in Central Luzon to spare holiday-goers on All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day in November from heavy traffic, criminal and terrorist activities, police said on Thursday here.

Oplan Kaluluwa is also mobilizing at least 34 volunteer civic and communications groups and thousands of barangay *tanods* for the two holidays, Chief Supt. Vidal Querol, regional police director, said.

"We would also like the government spared from curses by commuters and motorists," Querol said, referring to the heavy traffic expected in those Catholic occasions that both fall on a weekend.

The target. he said, was "unimpeded traffic."

Isagani Rico, chief investigator of the Philippine National Construction Corp., said the daily average volume of 736,041 vehicles along the 79-km North Luzon Expressway (NLEX) was expected to increase by 5 percent beginning Oct. 30 until Nov. 3.

For the holiday, Rico said the PNCC North Luzon division and the Leighton Ltd., the contractor of the Lopez-owned Manila North Tollway Corp. that is upgrading the expressway, agreed to open three northbound lanes from Balintawak to Bocaue, Bulacan, and two lanes from there up to Dau in Mabalacat.

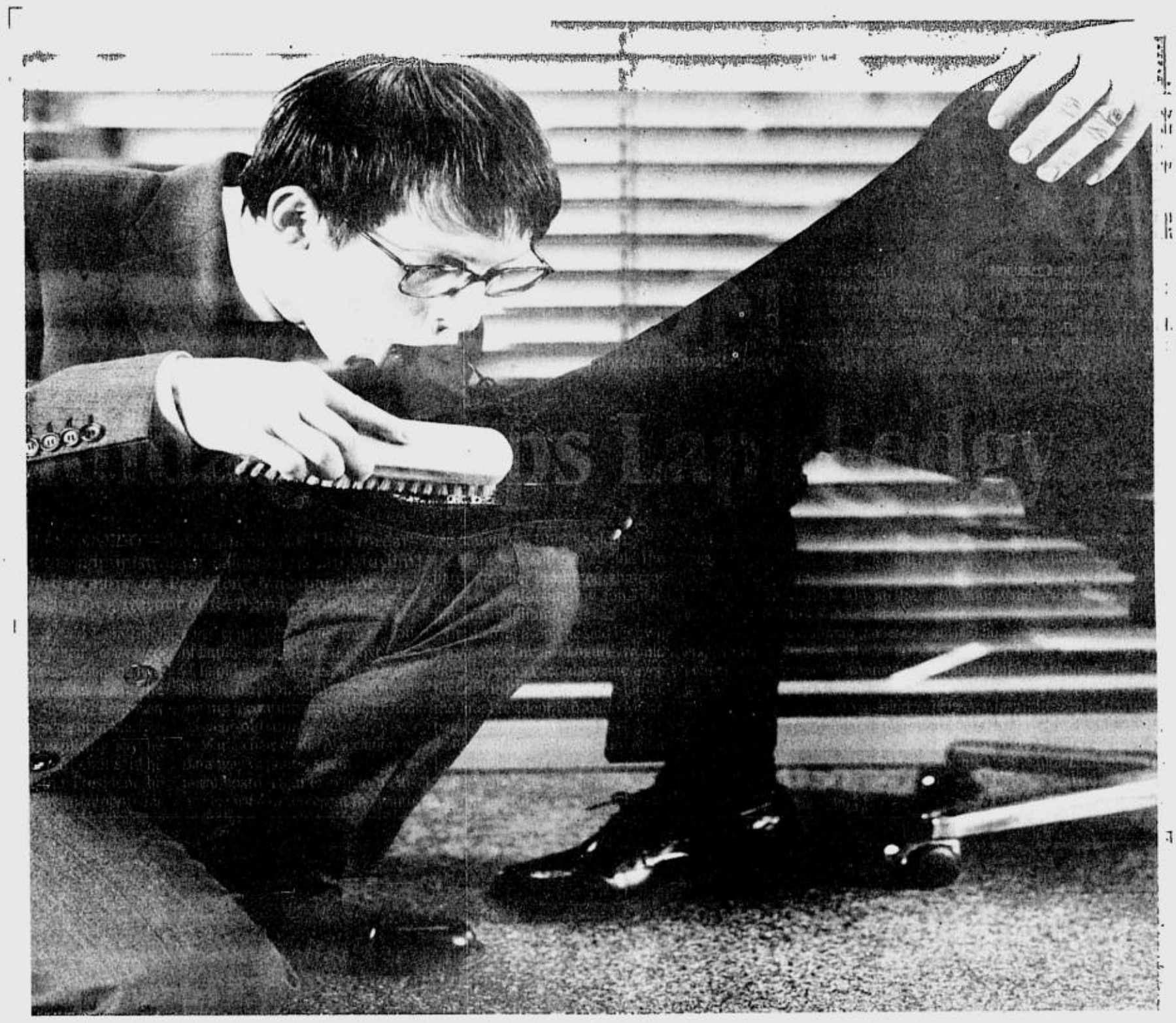
Alternative routes are being finalized to ease traffic, Rico said. Motorist assistance centers equipped with medical staff would be set up along the NLEX.

The Department of Public Works and Highways committed to complete the repair of potholes along the MacArthur Highway before the start of the holidays.

Additional policemen would be deployed to the traffic-prone stretches of the Gapan-San Fernando-Olongapo Road and the Maharlika Highway.

Oplan Kaluluwa, according to Querol, would also not give any chance to criminal and terrorist groups to carry out activities that would harm the public converging in cemeteries, malls, resorts and bus stations.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk



Upgrading of power lines in C. Visayas proposed

By Alex Pal, *PDI Visayas Bureau*

DUMAGUETE CITY—The executive committee of the Regional Development Council in Central Visayas yesterday endorsed a proposal of the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) to upgrade the interconnection of the power lines between Cebu and Negros in a bid to avert a power crisis in the Cebu-Negros-Panay grid.

The project cost of P2.15 billion will be submitted for consideration by the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC-Miyazawa Fund).

Under the plan submitted by the Transco, the project will involve the construction of a 109-kilometer, 138 kilovolt overhead transmission line utilizing steel towers and a 17.8 km submarine cable between Amlan town in Negros Oriental and Santander in Cebu province.

A briefing paper prepared by the RDC secretariat said the proposed Negros-Cebu Interconnection Upgrading Project (NCIUP) is a component of the Visayas Transmission Augmentation Program, which is designed to build robust, resilient and a reliable electricity highway capable of transmitting quality power safely to customers.

The NCIUP, the paper said, would improve the capability of the existing facilities, which are more than 10 years old.

The project will enhance the reliability and stability of the Cebu-Negros-Panay-Leyte-Samar grid and optimize the use of indigenous power from the Tongonan power plant in Leyte.

The RDC executive committee, meeting in this city yesterday, endorsed the project on condition that the Transco will secure the endorsements of the provincial development councils of Cebu and Negros Oriental and work for the immediate issuance of the Environmental Compliance Certificate for the project.

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Iligan folk form defense force to deal with terrorism

By Christine Godinez-Ortega
Iligan City

THE LESSONS learned from the attacks of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte about three years ago encouraged the people of Iligan City to form a defense force for its 44 barangays.

Organizing the Iligan City Defense Force among the grassroots brings people empowerment to another level. Volunteers from a cross-section of society turned up, literally, at the barangay halls when notice of the recruitment for able-bodied men, aged 26-45, first came out.

Formally launched in 2000 in Iligan City, the defense program now has a force of 1,750 men—the youngest at 18 years old and the oldest at 60.

A prospective member need not have a diploma but, according to organizers Bobby Quijano, retired Army Sgt. Alberto Soria and training coordinator Cristino Loayon Jr., he must be married and is a permanent resident in the barangay where he is deployed.

The rationale behind these requirements is to ensure the barangay's security. Married men are preferred because "they are deemed more responsible and will more or less stay in the barangay," Omar Bataluna, a philosophy professor and member of the defense force, said.

If training is rigid, discipline is strictly enforced. So far, only one member has been dismissed for abusive behavior, Bataluna added.

Twice, in the recent months, Iligan experienced serious threats by terrorists wanting to create havoc in the city and trying to get through Barangays Abuno and Suarez in the southern borders to Lanao del Sur and Lanao del Norte. The strange goings-on were immediately noticed by the homegrown defense force, which quickly tipped off the military.

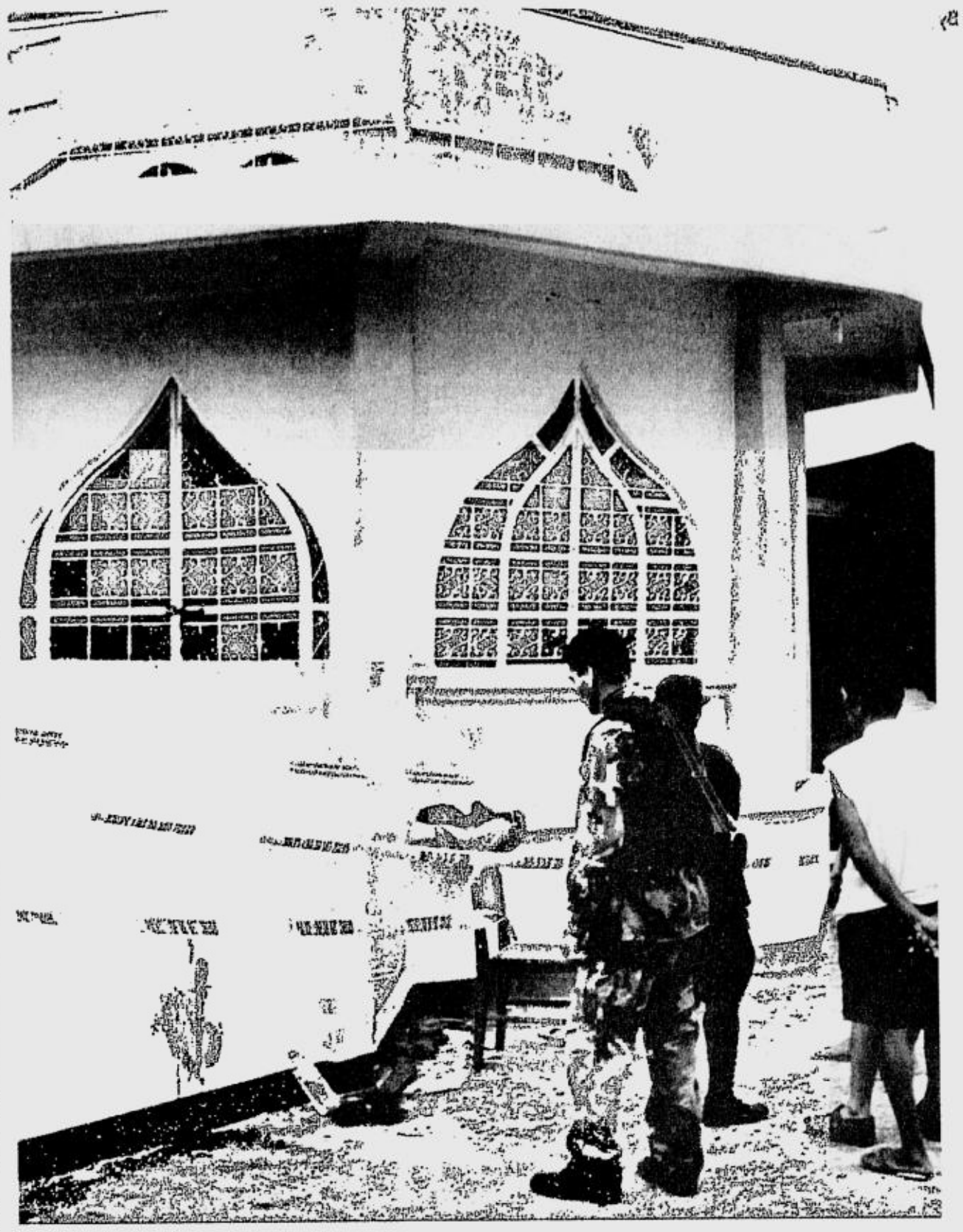
No Siocon

In turn, the soldiers organized blocking forces to prevent Iligan from becoming another Siocon, a town in Zamboanga del Norte which was attacked by terrorists.

Members of the defense force do not carry firearms. To defend themselves, they reached deep into the indigenous past and armed themselves with *arnis* sticks. To prepare themselves psychologically, morally and physically for their jobs, they train in *arnis*, the ancient Filipino art of stick fighting, in Camp Climaco Pintoy, under the supervision of the city mayor's office, the 904th Civil Defense Center and the city police.

Quijano emphasized that the gathering of intelligence is "the primary function" of the defense force.

The barangay volunteers are also mobilized during the city fiesta, All Souls' Day and in disasters and calamities. Due to its active defense force, Iligan has the lowest crime rate in the region, according to Quijano.



A LIFE ON ALERT AFP
Civilians and soldiers inspect the bloodstained mosque inside the compound of the National Irrigation Administration (NIA) in Midsayap, North Cotabato where four people were killed in a recent grenade attack.

HOUSES AT P10 A DAY

Poor of Tangub City find dreams of homes come true

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Tangub City

For only P10 a day, poor families in Tangub City, a quiet locality known as Mindanao's Christmas Capital, are seeing their dreams of a lifetime come true: owning a house and lot.

The home owners could not believe that for such a measly amount, they are paying for their units, not a popular brand of multivitamins. They consider such opportunity a lucky break, and the program has encouraged family beneficiaries to really work out ways to meet their financial obligations.

"*Ako gyud ning gitiguman kada adlaw. Tiaw mo na!* (I always save for it everyday. Could you believe that)," said Elena Judilla, a fisher and occasional *labandera* (laundry woman).

The Judilla family is one of the 40 mostly fishing households that were relocated to the Christmas Village in December last year after they were displaced by a government project in the coastal village of Maloro.

Said to be "built by the Yuletide spirit," the Christmas Village is being developed jointly by the local government and the Couples for Christ (CFC) under its Gawad Kalinga Program.

Nationwide program

Nationwide, the Gawad Kalinga's "Bagong Bahay, Bagong Buhay, Bagong Bayan" program aims to build 700,000 houses in 7,000 communities in seven years with multi-sectoral support dubbed the GK 777. It seeks to be "a template for development that other Third World countries can adopt."

The Tangub beneficiaries, along with volunteers, provided the manpower to build the houses as a "labor of love" offering. A locally-based unit of the Philippine Army sent troops to build two units in the village.

"Owning a decent house has been my long-held dream throughout our 18 years of marriage," Elena said.

She and her husband Raul have eked out a living through fishing, both of them having been raised in coastal communities. Poverty has prevented them from acquiring high-paying skills.

As their family grew, Elena had to look after the children and spend less time fishing. Mondays to Fridays, she takes care of their five children who are now of school age. On weekends, she works as *labandera* for households in the city proper. From one family, a "*suki*," she does the laundry on Saturdays and gets at least P100.

From fishing, Raul, 40, earns an average of P80 a day. The amount sustains the family's daily necessities.

Because of their tight money situation, according to Elena, they had almost forgotten to repair or renovate their one-room "*payag* (hut)." The roof leaks when it rains.

New houses

Now, the family lives in a 25-square-meter, two-bedroom house with a comfort room, kitchen, sala space and dining area.

The bedrooms have been furnished with two double-deck beds. Potable water, pumped from an underground source and piped to the house, gushes out of the faucet.

Because of the beneficiaries' "sweat equity," the project saved P8,000 in labor cost for each house. Construction materials were provided by the local government as counterpart agency.

The houses are grouped in 10 clusters of four. Each cluster is designed in such a way that the houses share a common square where the residents can do their laundry work.

A garden plot has been allocated to each household so that they can raise vegetables for consumption. A livelihood program involving bamboo handicrafts and the manufacture of Christmas decors for the city's Christmas Symbols Festival and other markets is also underway.

The Judillas now have alternative livelihood options to improve their earnings.

Easy terms

"It's definitely Christmas," exclaimed Raul when his family was awarded their housing unit in December last year. Part of the rejoicing comes from the very easy terms of repayment for their house.

For each unit, the beneficiaries will pay amortizations of as low as P300 a month over 20 years. If a family cannot afford to pay in cash, the equivalent amortization can be given through voluntary service to the local government. Such service will be valued at the regular wage rate being received by a casual employee.

With all the physical and service attributes of the housing program, the more exciting appears to be the value formation component designed for relocating families.

Optimism seen in operations of steel firm

By Jani Arnaiz, *Visayas Bureau*

ISABEL, Leyte—The Philippine Associated Smelting and Refining Corp. (Pasar) is optimistic that it will reach its target of becoming Asia's best copper producer.

Ricardo Santiago, Pasar senior vice president and human resource management and plant administration, said the company has earned at least $5 million since it started operating in 1999.

From January to August this year, he added, their total revenue for both export and local sales increased to P17 million.

He attributed Pasar's growth to the new management. "Since we took over four years ago, we kind of overhauled the entire operation including the upgrading of equipment. And it paid off," Santiago said.

AFP's beg list for Bush: 30 helicopters

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE—The chief of the Philippine Air Force, Lt. Gen. Nestor Santillan, on Friday admitted the obvious—that the military fleet of aircraft was antiquated and insufficient.

And because it lacks funds for modernization, the PAF severely needs the 30 Huey helicopters the United States had committed to give to the Philippine military this month, Santillan said.

The Huey helicopters are similar to the ones already in use by the Philippine military and were widely used by the Americans during the Vietnam War which the United States lost.

"Our aircraft are certainly antiquated and we really have to modernize. We have money but it is not enough. We need a lot of money. A brand new fighter jet alone costs $60 million," he said.

The military has been accused of squandering billions of pesos earmarked for new equipment.

Santillan graced the opening of the PAF's farm school at the Air Force City here.

On the 30 helicopters which are second-hand but refurbished in A-1 flying condition, he aired strong hopes that "we can get those soon."

"We badly need those," he added, explaining their importance to internal security operations, search and rescue missions, transport as well as support for social and economic development.

Santillan said the PAF's air strength was "insufficient." Its 38 Hueys are extensively used in operations against the Abu Sayyaf and communist rebels.

"We really need additional aircraft. I have to be honest with you," he told reporters here.

The Air Force has only two C-130 cargo planes, several OV-10 jets and MG-520 choppers. At least two military aircraft had crashed outside of Clark in separate incidents since 2000, killing at least two pilots, one of whom was a woman, Mary Grace Baloyo.

Additional aircraft, Santillan said, meant having additional strength. "We need more muscle in our fight not only against terrorists but insurgents as well," he said.

According to him, the PAF's wish list for US President George W. Bush's eight-hour visit to the country next week includes fighter planes, transport aircraft, attack helicopters and training for majority of its 16,000 troops.

Joint military exercises under the Visiting Forces Agreement, resumed in 1999, had helped train the troops, he said.

At present, Santillan said the main thrust in the second year of his term remains on aircraft recovery or the repair and upgrade of fleet left idle in Air Force's hangars.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

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Alumni members, residents and affiliate organizations may contact their college chapters for more details. For further inquiries, members may also the **Scintilla Juris Secretariat** through the following:

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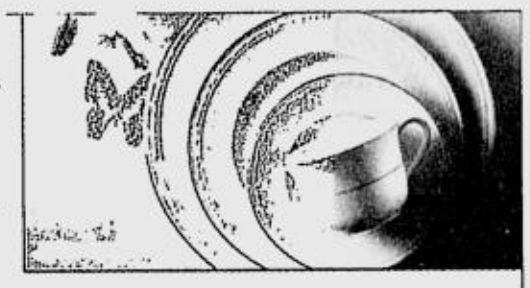

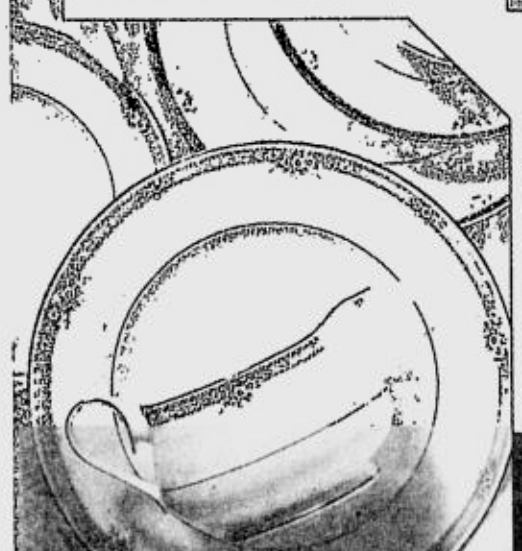

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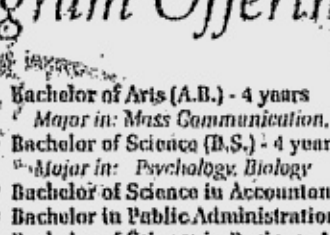

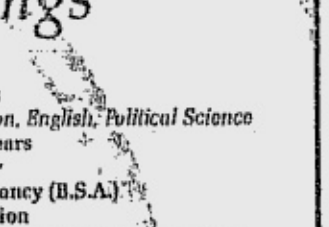

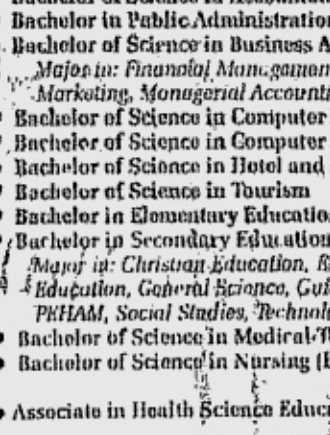

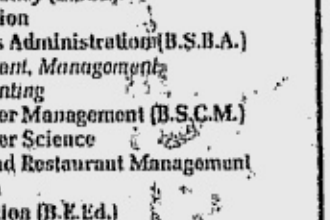

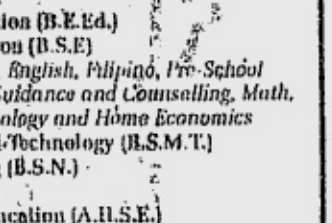

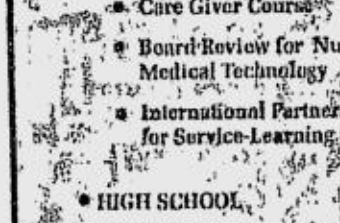

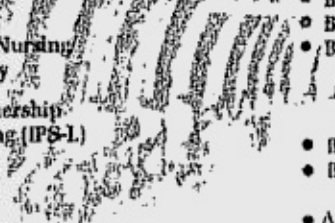

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NO matter the color, it's still a red-carpet welcome for visiting Hong Kong journalists in the President's office at the Palace recently outfitted with a new carpet bearing the Presidential seal, which was custom made for the Bush state visit. EDWIN BACASMAS

PROUD DESIGNER JC Buendia presents the coat dress that GMA is set to wear when she welcomes President Bush. At right, the two state dinner-worthy ternos by Rem Divino. The President has yet to decide which of the two ternos she's going to wear. EDWIN BACASMAS

US First Lady to tell children's stories

From page A1

Mabolo

Antonio Garcia of Mabolo is recreating a barrio fiesta in the Palace grounds. Toni Parsons has been assigned to make the floral arrangements inside the Palace.

A lechon will be roasting during the outdoor cocktail reception. There will be booths for *bibingka (*broiled rice cake) and *puto bumbong* (steamed rice roll), lumpia, halo-halo, chicharon, pork barbecue and *Ilonggo inasal* (skewered chicken), *pandesal* with various fillings, thick chocolate and special *ensaymada*, and "dirty" ice dream.

A state dinner at the Ceremonial Hall, the culminating activity in the eight-hour Bush visit, will be attended by a select group of Filipino and American guests.

Naia arrival

The Bushes, who are honoring the invitation that Ms Macapagal extended during her own state visit to Washington in May, are expected to arrive noontime Saturday on board Air Force One at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

They will meet with US Embassy personnel at the airport VIP lounge before proceeding to the Rizal Park in Manila to lay a wreath at the monument of Jose Rizal.

The Palace grounds have been beautified and secured for the subsequent state arrival ceremonies, including a 21-gun salute.

Per the tentative schedule, Bush will then meet with Ms Macapagal and members of the Cabinet at the President's study room in Malacañang.

The American president will then address a joint session of Congress at the House of Representatives in Quezon City. *With a report from Chelo Banal-Formoso*

FINAL DAB. A worker applies finishing touches to Malacañang's Kalayaan Hall gate. EDWIN BACASMAS

PALACE facade with a fresh coat of paint glows in soft evening lights ... EDWIN BACASMAS

.. and in the hard light of day, a PNP Special Action Group stands guard in front of a similarly spruced-up US embassy entrance. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Color . . .

From page A1

red carpet and the many other red elements in the receiving area [of the Palace]," says Joanne Zapanta-Andrada, the President's style consultant.

The five-button linen coat dress by designer JC Buendia meets the occasion's requirement for understated elegance. The bluish-gray color softens the business edges of the suit dress. The natural material is perfect for Manila's climate.

"Nothing aggressive in the daytime," says Andrada, "because her evening wear will be dramatic."

According to Buendia, the coat dress ensemble, with its tapered silhouette, has become a presidential favorite since the President got rave reviews for the V-necked, bamboo-buttoned rust version she wore during her address to the United Nations in New York earlier this month.

Ungaro apprentice

For the state dinner, the President has two gowns to choose from, both designed by Rem Divino, the little known designer who apprenticed briefly at the House of Ungaro and spent 10 years carving out his fashion career in Dubai.

One is a traditional terno in Aqua Gazar satin material, accentuated with beading and Swarovski crystals in the upper bodice. The bodice's mosaic pattern is repeated on the butterfly sleeves. Andrada thinks the President will pick this terno.

The other choice is a red and maroon Filipiniana gown with asymetric beading on the bodice and one of the sleeves, and full bias pleating on the skirt.

Whichever gown the President chooses, the look will be finished off with matching shoes and evening clutch bag and diamond jewelry from her mother's collection.

Made in Marikina

The President has adopted an all-Filipino policy for her wardrobe, says Andrada, to promote Filipino designers and craftsmen. The clothes, shoes and other fashion accessories she is seen wearing in public are all designed and made here. "Her shoes are made in Marikina," noted Andrada.

Divino has been designing party dresses and gowns for the President for six months now. He designed the black dress and veil that the President wore for her audience with Pope John Paul II and the pink gown in which she met with Hollywood-based Fil-Am actors Lou Diamond Philips and Tia Carrera.

The secret in designing for the President, says Divino, is that less is more. Instead of lots of details, he says he goes for simple beading.

Comfort

Buendia says the President is too preoccupied with the affairs of the nation to be fastidious about her clothes. Rarely does she get excited about fashion, and hardly bothers with name brands. Comfort, he adds, is GMA's primary concern.

Look who's not campaigning

From page A1

Chief of staff Rigoberto Tiglao insisted that the President was "definitely not campaigning" when she showed up for two regional events here yesterday in which she sounded the themes of "unity and experience," apparently the rallying call of her yet-to-be-launched presidential campaign.

Unity, experience

The first event was the launch of the Hilaga tourism village, a trade exhibit and cultural events venue for Northern Luzon in what used to be the Paskuhan village in this city.

The President addressed an audience of about 1,000 that included members of the tourism councils of the region, exhorting them to boost tourism and continue to help make it a top income-earning industry.

"We might have good policies but these are not enough. We must ensure that implementation is done at the ground," Ms Macapagal said in Filipino.

"Unity and experience are still what are needed," she added.

Same theme

The President struck the same theme in the second event, a forum of the Liga ng mga Barangay of the seven Central Luzon provinces at the Max's Restaurant here. It gathered some 400 barangay captains from Aurora, Bataan, Bulacan, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Tarlac and Zambales.

Ms Macapagal again emphasized the need for experienced leaders and "unity to make our republic strong."

"Good policies will not guarantee that our problems will be solved. That's the lesson of the strong republic program. We need experience to learn how to execute good policies and programs," she said.

The forum, organized by the the business sector and the Kaibigan ni Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (KGMA) of Pampanga, had the theme, "Government Programs and Services towards a Strong Republic."

Tess Laus, the Pampanga chair of the KGMA, asked that the forum not be described as a "political campaign."

"We simply want to tell the programs of the government down to the barangays," Laus said.

The group distributed white t-shirts emblazoned with "Matatag na Republika" and "KGMA."

At one point, she stopped one of her aides from preventing a beggar girl from approaching her. The girl, who looked about 12, kissed the President's hand. The President gave her a light pat on the head.

Coincidental

Tiglao, who was the main speaker, said the timing of the forum had been coincidental. Ms Macapagal was not even scheduled to grace the forum, she had gone to Pampanga yesterday to revive interest in Hilaga, he said.

He said the forum had been planned three months ago by the league whose members were "very interested in the vision of the strong republic and the actual programs of the President."

Tiglao said he requested the President to drop in at the forum before proceeding to Bulacan and returning to Malacañang for a 3:30 p.m. meeting.

He said some people at the forum had proposed that similar gatherings be held in other parts of the country because these are "very volatile times" and there was a need to clarify the nation's vision.

"It would really be a good idea to really galvanize support for the republic," Tiglao said, adding that the strong republic program was the President's idea.

PowerPoint

Tiglao's PowerPoint presentation centered mainly on the accomplishments of the administration in the areas of employment, health, education, housing and economic growth.

Interspersed in his presentation was the phrase: "*Isinasagawa ng estado kung ano ang kanyang sinasabi* (The state does what it says)."

No one stood to ask questions or seek clarification.

"She's campaigning," said a barangay captain from Angeles City who said the forum was a "guise" to solicit support for the President's 2004 election bid.

He expressed disgust at the strong republic theme which he said had been discussed several times with the barangay leaders.

Hails Gordon

At the Hilaga launch, the President said she made the right decision in choosing Richard Gordon as tourism secretary. She said Gordon worked hard to realize a 40-percent growth in the tourism industry, spurring earnings of $2 billion from tourism-related activities and creating some 4,000 jobs in the revival of the Intramuros Walled City.

Ms Macapagal also said she was right to order the full operation of the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport at the Clark Special Economic Zone, noting that it would be able to draw in tourists.

She said she had ordered Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza to cut the red tape for the Korean-based Asiana Airlines, which failed to make its maiden flight to Clark last week because of a protest from the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Gordon, whom the President called a "super cheerleader," goaded the audience to chant the President's name which they obliged, drowning the hall in shouts of "Gloria! Gloria!"

In a play on the President's name, Gordon told the audience: "*Bago ang glorya, sikap muna* (Before we achieve glory, we should first work hard)."

Disappointed civil ...

From page A1

The movement, which groups some 18 civil society organizations, has held two national congresses since.

During the July 27 failed coup, the President sought the help of the 12.30 Movement to thwart the plotters. The group mobilized its members to protect the Edsa Shrine.

Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman, a civil society stalwart before becoming a government official, tried to make light of the situation.

Going by numbers

Soliman said there was no one view among civil society groups toward the President. She believes those against the President's decision to run do not outnumber those who support her.

"If you go by numbers, there's an evening of numbers. No group can claim an overwhelming majority," she said.

Indeed, one of the movement's convenors, Evelyn Kilayco of the Concerned Women of the Philippines, yesterday said that she did not share the sentiment of those who declared themselves to be unhappy with the President's decision to run.

"Some of us are happy that she changed her mind," Kilayco said.

"Personally I'm happy she changed her mind because she's a hardworking President and she remains focused on her job despite so much politicking," she added.

Soliman said she met with and talked to several civil society organizations, many of which belonged to the 12.30 Movement, last Oct. 6 at the Ateneo University in Quezon City.

She said she explained to them that the President had to reconsider her decision not to run "because of the challenges faced by the country and the prospect of presidential candidates being put up by different groups."

She admitted that majority of the organizations grouped under the movement felt that it was time to dissolve it "because the reason for its existence was no longer valid."

'Dangerous alternatives'

"I respect their decision. Everyone has their role to play," Soliman said, noting that there were many others in civil society who supported the President's decision.

She said that even among those who did not agree with that decision, "there's still a lot of common ground to work on".

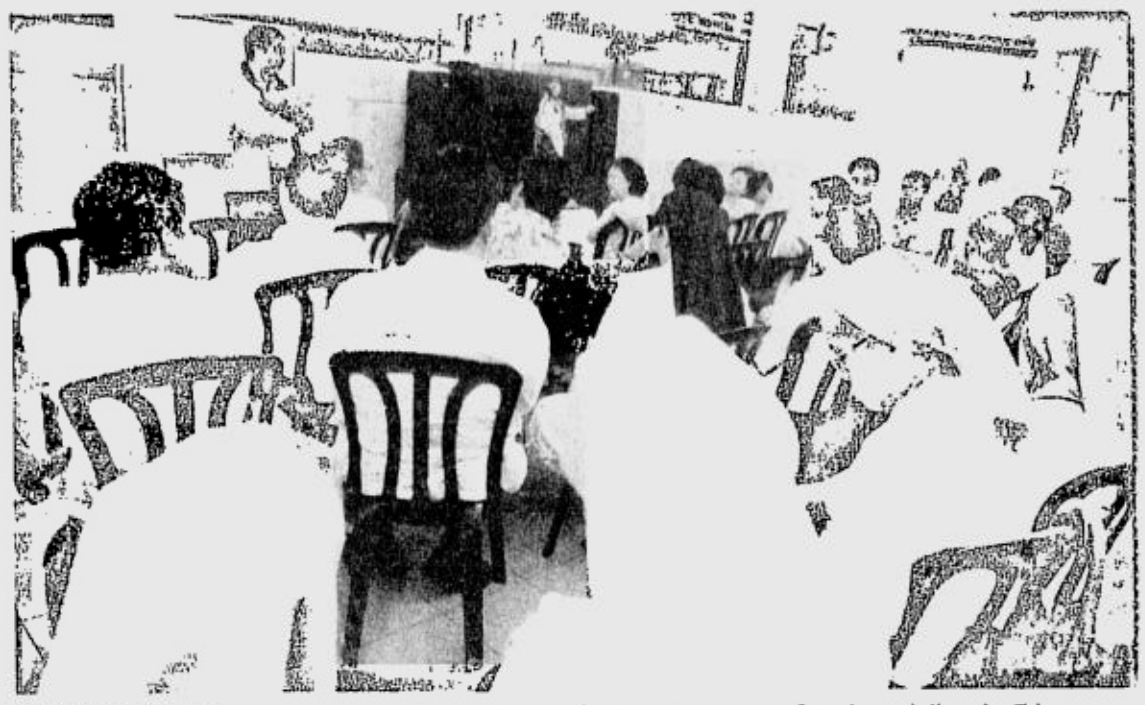
"They still want to push for clean elections and reconciliation. So I think on that basis they can still continue to work [with the government]," Soliman said.

Earlier, Teresita Baltazar, a commissioner of the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission and another civil society campaigner-turned-government official, said that some civil society members who were now in government were anxious for the reforms already started to continue and thus were not averse to Ms Macapagal's running in 2004.

"Some in our sectors are worried. There are already gains in government reforms. They have leaders in sectors pushing them from within the government. They want that to continue," she said.

Besides, Baltazar said civil society cannot afford the risk of having an undesirable presidential aspirant winning in 2004.

"Who are the alternatives? Some of them are even dangerous," she said.



MEMBERS of the 12.30 Movement and other civil society groups prepare for a long vigil at the Edsa Shrine to defend the government amid reports of a mutiny at Oakwood on July 26. ERNIE SARMIENTO

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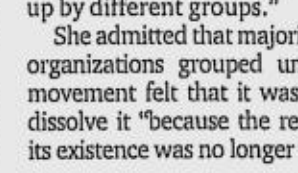

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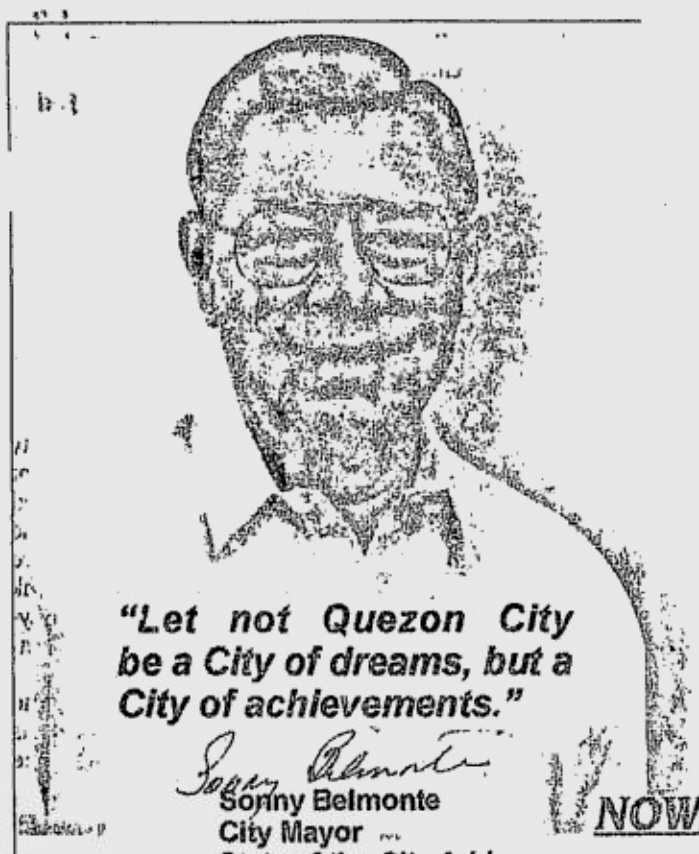

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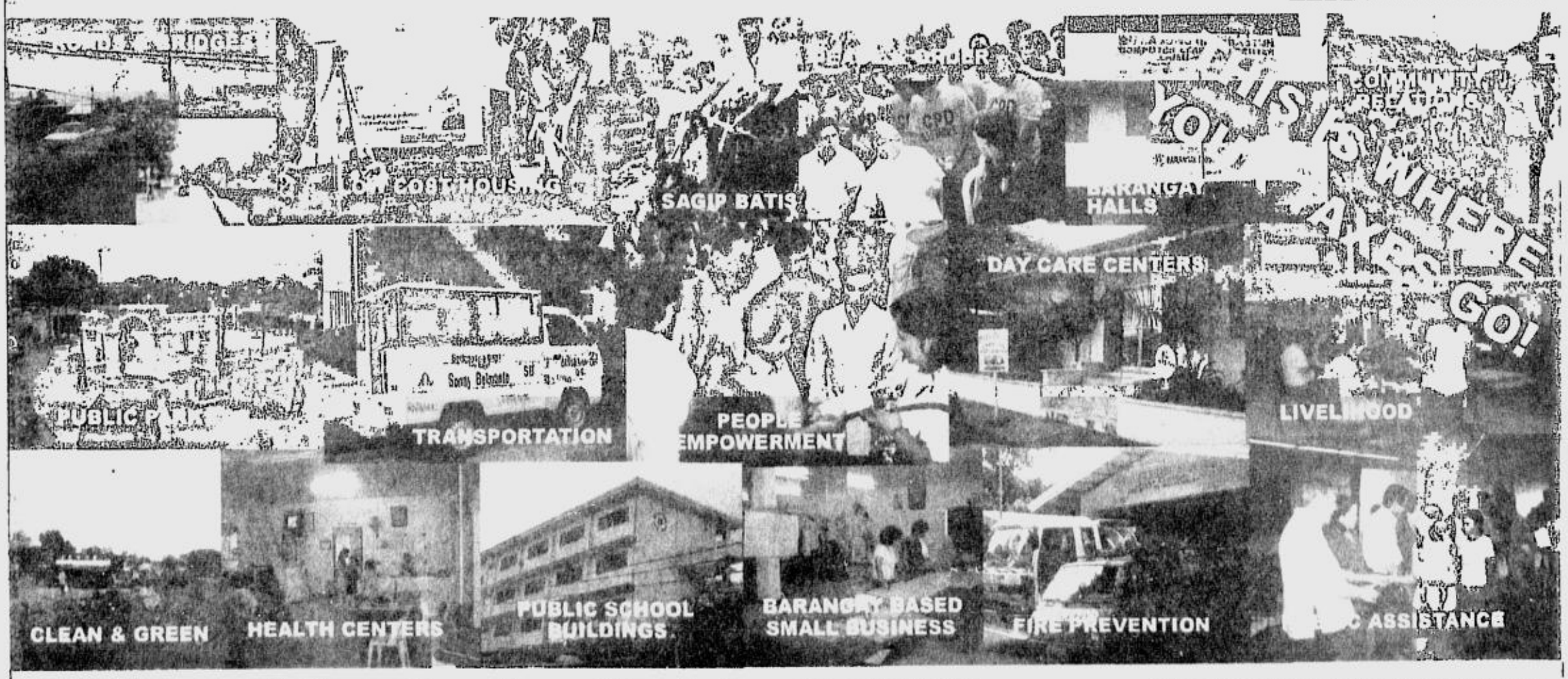

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* Association of Club & Karaoke Disco Operators

Thai Prime Minister honors winners of the Asian CSR Awards 2003

Thai Prime Minister, His Excellency Thaksin Shinawatra (right) and host of the evening, Ambassador Ramon V. del Rosario, Sr.: All smiles on stage as they wait to welcome the winners of the Asian CSR Awards 2003.

Presented by ASIAN INSTITUTE OF MANAGEMENT

and Ramon V. del Rosario, Sr. AIM CENTER FOR CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY
Asian Institute of Management

322 delegates from 21 countries representing 181 organizations from all over Asia witnessed the celebrations of the Asian CSR Awards held in Bangkok on September 19, 2003

His Excellency, Thaksin Shinawatra, Prime Minister of Thailand gave the Awards during the gala dinner of the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility and ceremonies of the Asian CSR Awards. He was assisted by Ambassador Ramon V. del Rosario, Sr. founder of the AIM Center for Corporate Responsibility. The RVR-AIM Center believes that one of the best ways to advance corporate social responsibility Asia is to recognize successful programs and to promote outstanding practices by companies in the region.

The Awards' four categories, and one special award are:

1. Environmental Excellence,
2. Best CSR Policies,
3. Support and Improvement of Education,
4. Poverty Alleviation
5. Special Achievement Award

The search and selection process

Companies from all over the region are encouraged to enter their best projects or programs. For each category, a panel or experts from the 18 partner organizations reviewed the entries and recommended the winners and runners up to the Conference Committee. In all cases, selection is achieved through consensus.

Congratulations to the winners

Environmental Excellence
Company: **Nestlé Philippines**
Project: **Greening the Supply Chain**

Nestlé's Greening the Supply Chain (GSC) program has an on-going outreach program to help its business partners raise their level of commitment to environmental protection and to improve their environmental performance. To date, 150 participants from 81 companies have been trained.

Support and Improvement of Education
Company: **Tata Consultancy Services, India**
Project: **Adult Literacy Program**

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

TCS established the Adult Literacy Program, or ALP, to help the Indian government eradicate illiteracy. Adult illiterates can learn to read after a mere 40 hours of instruction over 8 to 10 weeks. In just over 2 years the ALP has grown from the concept stage to implementation, benefiting more than 20,000 people in 5 states.

Best CSR Policies:
Company: **Union Cement Corporation, Philippines**
Project: **Social Development and Management Program**

Holcim Group UNION

In fulfilling its commitment to Sustainable Development, Union Cement works in partnership with all stakeholders: local officials, NGOs, government agencies, and community organizations to design and carry out social programs and has set well defined CSR policies that address three major issues: education, livelihood and infrastructure.

Poverty Alleviation
Company: **Hindalco Industries, India**
Project: **Integrated Rural Poverty Alleviation Program**

Hindalco believes in looking beyond traditional areas of responsibility, and addresses the larger issues facing society. One example of the company's vision is the Integrated Rural Poverty Alleviation Program initiated in one of the most backward regions of the country. The company adopted 340 villages in which it implemented poverty alleviation programs in a phased manner over a decade.

Special Achievement Award: **Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP)**

PBSP has grown to more than 175 members, worked with some 2,500 partner organizations, provided close to 100 million dollars in financial assistance to support over 5,000 projects. Its actions have benefited close to 2.5 million poor households. The organization works with government, business, NGOs, donor institutions and poverty groups through multi-sectoral partnerships to contribute to nationwide poverty alleviation. The Philippine Daily Inquirer is a proud member of PBSP.

WINNERS ALL: Winners of the Asian CSR Awards 2003 proudly display their trophies as they pose with His Excellency Thaksin Shina-watra, Prime Minister of Thailand and Ambassador Ramon V. del Rosario, Sr. (From left to right) Ramon R. del Rosario, Jr., Co-Chairman of the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility (AFCSR); Atty. Mabini Antonio and Jesus Reyes of Nestlé Philippines; Prof. Kesav Nori and Bhushan Dewan of Tata Consultancy Services – India; Juan Santos and Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio of the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP); Ambassador Ramon V. del Rosario, Sr.; Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra; Dr. Pragnya Ram and Ahmar Sultan of Hindalco Industries – India; Zita Diez and Alex Vonow of Union Cement Corporation – Philippines; Senator Mechai Viravaidya, Co-Chairman of AFCSR; and Roberto de Ocampo, President of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM).

ASIAN FORUM on Corporate Social Responsibility

The organizations behind the Asian Forum on Corporate Social Responsibility and the Asian CSR Awards

The Ramon V. del Rosario, Sr. AIM Center for Corporate Responsibility presented the event in cooperation with the Population and Community Development Association, and the Ford Foundation.

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Philippine Business for Social Progress
PPM Institute of Management – Indonesia
Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum
Social Venture Network, Thailand
Synergos Institute
United Nations Development Programme / UN Global Compact
The University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce

Congratulations to the runners up

Environmental Excellence:
- The Sustainable Clean Brantas River Program from Unilever Indonesia.
- Sustainability Report 2001 and 2002 from the Mass Transit Railway Corporation Hong Kong

Support and Improvement of Educatio:
- Creative Writing Workshop on Children's Books by the Coca-Cola Foundation, Inc. Indonesia
- Model-of-Excellence School in Esteban Abada from the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, Philippines.
- Computer Eyes by IBM Philippines

Best CSR Policies
- The Social Responsibility Ambassadors program by Unocal Thailand
- The Community Development Program, entered by Central Azucarera Don Pedro, the Philippines.

Poverty Alleviation
- Supporting "Helpers for Domestic Helpers entered by Allen & Overy, Hong Kong
- Comprehensive Microfinance for Micro-sector Empowerment by Seylan Bank, Sri Lanka

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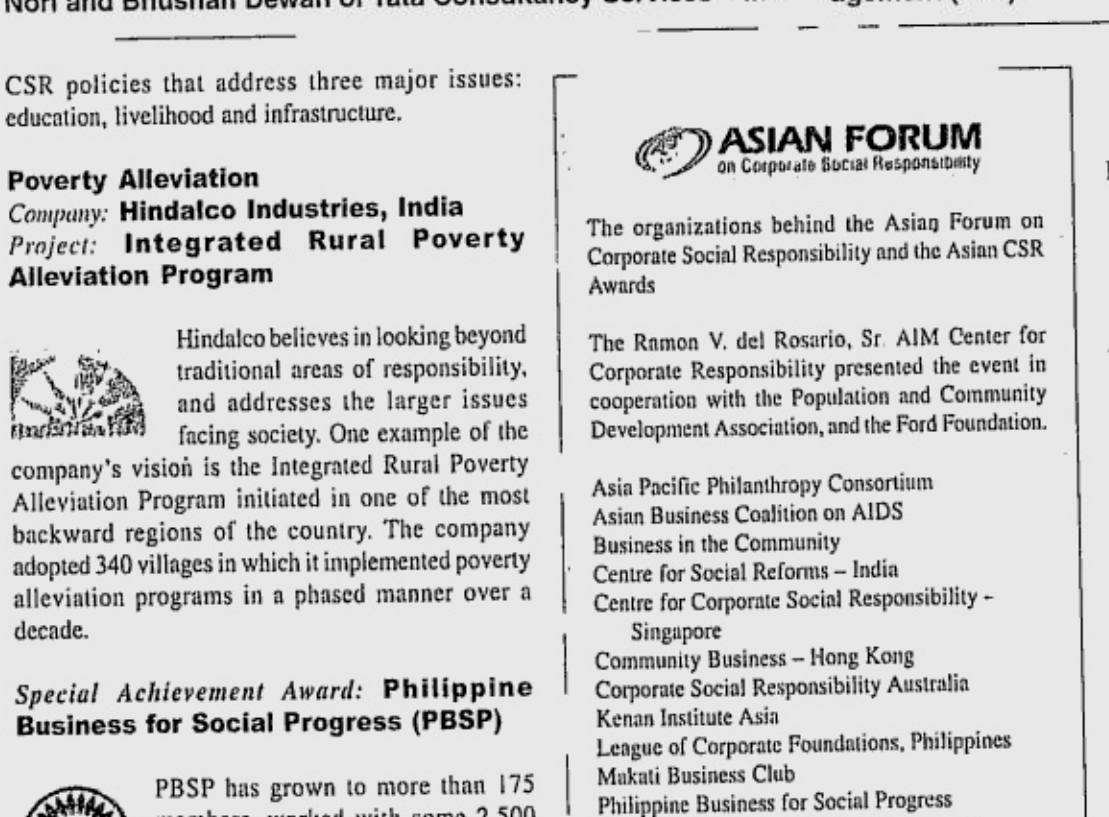

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In Makati, voters have a tough time

By Margaux Ortiz and Christine Paita

SOMETHING'S burning at the Makati Central Fire Station, and it would take more than water and firemen to douse the "fire."

Makati City residents have been complaining about the unlikely location of the city's Commission on Elections (Comelec) office on the second floor of the fire station.

The chaos that went with the processing of papers, the unbearable heat, and the lack of proper ventilation are some of the complaints of residents lining up to register or validate their voters' identification cards for the May 2004 elections.

Alice Dual, of Barangay Pembo, arrived at the fire station at about 6 a.m. Five hours later, an endless line of Makati voters had formed at the hallway, and Dual could barely stand the heat of the poorly ventilated hallway.

"It reeks of sweat in here," Dual said in Filipino.

Roland Escopel, of Guadalupe Nuevo, complained about the lack of an organized queuing system.

"The present procedure takes too long, and we have to skip work just to come back and finish everything," Christian Ceniza of Barangay Pembo lamented.

A concerned citizen even sent a text message to the INQUIRER, asking for a reporter to check out the conditions of the Comelec office at the fire station.

"Why is the Comelec office not in city hall?" the citizen asked. "We are taxpayers. Why should it be made difficult for us to register?"

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Makati District II election officer Pedro Rosal explained that the city government had allotted the space at the fire station for the local Comelec, which has no building of its own.

The Comelec offices for Makati's two districts are both housed in the fire station.

"It's not as if this is a new development," Rosal said. "People have been registering here even before I assumed this position in 2000."

The delay in the registration process could also be attributed to the capturing machines used to record the faces, signatures and fingerprints of the citizens in order to weed out flying and double voters.

But the machines can only accommodate 300 voters a day, Rosal said.

He said it takes 15 minutes for a machine to take the biometrics of one person.

Many voters who do not make it to the "day's 300" still take their chances and overcrowd the place, Rosal said.

He said they were also severely understaffed, with only five election assistants attending to the voters.

"And I'm only speaking for District II ... we are also suffering from this predicament," Rosal said.

But there are plans to transfer District II's Comelec office to the former Environment Service building in Barangay Cembo, after the registration and validation period, Rosal said.

Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay's spokesperson, Lito Anzures, confirmed the Comelec's plans, saying this would improve the process.

Rosal also appealed for more capturing machines to hasten the registration of voters.

"The more machines we have, the faster people could go home after a few minutes in line," Rosal said.

At present, there are only two capturing machines at the Comelec's office in Makati City.

THIS IS no way to treat voters: Makati City residents waiting their turn to register or validate their voters' ID have to endure chaotic queues in a corridor "reeking of sweat." Residents said that the second floor of the Makati Central Fire Station is not a proper place to house the local Comelec office. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

MMDA collects hefty P.6M in traffic fines

By Christine Paita

THE METRO Manila Development Authority has collected a total of P684,210 in fines from traffic violators since it implemented the No-Contact Apprehension Program last April, according to a report submitted to MMDA Traffic Operations Center Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

The MMDA collected the amount in the past six months from drivers and motorists who had committed traffic violations such as disregarding the yellow lane, reckless driving, obstruction and loading or unloading passengers in nondesignated areas.

The report showed that the total collection of fines for traffic violations amounted to P254,000 in the first week of October (Oct. 1 to 7), while the partial sum collected in the last week of September (Sept. 29-Oct. 1) was P153,350.

The report also showed that from April to September, the MMDA impounded 54 buses, collecting P190,840 in fines.

The number of impounded buses has decreased to 5 in the first week of October from 20 in the last week of September, according to the report.

Under the program, MMDA traffic enforcers on Edsa and other major thoroughfares use still or video cameras to "capture" bus drivers and private motorists in the act of violating traffic rules.

The "captured" images of erring buses and private vehicles are then downloaded from some 10 computers inside the program's operations center.

Dithy Banzon of the Traffic Operations Center told the INQUIRER that the MMDA office apprehends around 1,000 traffic violators a day, but of this number, only around 300 summons are sent because of the strict quality control of pictures.

The INQUIRER learned that when the program was first implemented, only 50 percent of the violations captured in pictures were made basis for issuing summons.

Woman nabbed for issuing fake Korean passports

By Leila Salaverria

A WOMAN was arrested for issuing fake South Korean visas and defrauding prospective overseas workers in Manila.

Suspect Felinda Navarro-Ballena of Novaliches, Quezon City, was arrested by members of the Special Action Unit of the National Bureau of Investigation during an entrapment operation on J.P. Laurel Street in Manila.

SAU chief Assistant Regional Director Vicente de Guzman III said the South Korean Embassy had also sounded the alarm on Ballena's operations after it discovered five fake South Korean visas attached to the passports of the complainants.

Investigation showed that beginning January this year, Ballena had convinced Emelyn Condicion and four other persons to apply as factory workers in South Korea.

Condicion said Ballena had demanded P50,000 to P60,000 as initial payment for processing the victims' papers. The total fee was P250,000.

She said Ballena had promised the recruits that they would be sent to South Korea in 45 days.

But after five months, none of the recruits had been sent to South Korea.

The NBI found that the South Korean visas Ballena had issued were counterfeit. The NBI checked with the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency and learned that Ballena was not licensed to recruit workers for work abroad.

Ex-PBA star files libel suit vs accuser

By Margaux Ortiz

"THIS is a tall tale that should not be taken sitting down."

The former basketball star allegedly caught sleeping with the wife of an aspiring Manila politician has decided to file charges of libel against his accuser.

Paul "Bong" Alvarez, through his agent and spokesperson, Danny Espiritu, said that Jorge Alfredo Lopez III has enthusiastically fed the "tall tale" to the media at the expense of his reputation and his family.

Lopez on Thursday filed a complaint before the Makati City police, claiming that he caught his wife and Alvarez inside the master's bedroom of their house in Magallanes Village.

In a statement Espiritu read over the phone to the INQUIRER, Alvarez vehemently denied having an illicit affair with Sarah Devendorf-Lopez.

He clarified that he and Sarah are part of a closely knit group, along with Bong Aragon, Jeff Bote and a certain Ash (Sarah's friend).

Alvarez said they frequently try out different restaurants and bars in Makati, especially in the Greenbelt area.

The former basketball star reiterated that it was their common friend Aragon who took Sarah home early Thursday morning after a night of partying.

He also said that the house in Magallanes Village does not belong to Lopez, but is the home of Sarah's parents where she has been staying since her separation from her husband six months ago.

Alvarez stressed that Lopez's tale "defies logic and normal human experience and reaction."

Alvarez also said his accuser, who has declared his intentions to run as councilor of Manila's fourth district, "is enjoying every minute of media coverage."

He added that his lawyers, Aquilino Pimentel III and Jerry Ma. Pacuribot, are now preparing libel charges against Lopez and the people "who assisted him in the publication and repetition of the crime."

Alvarez is married to Almira Muhlach, younger sister of actor Aga Muhlach.

Aga's manager, Ethel Ramos, yesterday told the INQUIRER that Almira and her three daughters have shied away from the public and have been staying in Pampanga since the scandal broke out last Thursday. *With a report from Marinel Cruz*

Marikina City officials back down, start dialogue with striking transport groups

By Luige del Puerto

APPARENTLY STUNNED by the strike which crippled 80 percent of public transportation in Marikina on Friday, city officials yesterday promised to study and reconsider the points raised by jeepney drivers and operators.

But nothing was agreed upon during the public hearing called at City Hall late afternoon Friday, according to Tony Pagaduan, board member of the 2,000-strong Marikina-Antipolo-Paenaan Operators and Drivers Association.

Pagaduan said they received assurances from Marikina Land Transportation Office chief Nick Cruz and Councilor Jaime Tiburcio Jr. that their grievances would be heard.

The drivers took to the streets to denounce officials for pushing a controversial ordinance, the Marikina Public Utility Jeepney Regulation Code of 2003, which was supposed to consolidate the city's various transport measures.

"Nothing has been agreed upon yet," Pagaduan said. "But we are glad that they are listening."

But Pagaduan warned that the drivers would go on strike again if city officials would continue to disregard their objections.

The drivers strongly opposed a measure requiring them to pay an additional P10 per unit per day—or roughly P3,000 annually—as terminal fee, on top of the LTO franchise fee, drivers' ID fee and other dues.

Tiburcio, chair of the committee on transportation, earlier told reporters that the P10 terminal fee (P2 is the current fee) is yet to be implemented, and that public hearings are still being conducted.

"The amount could still be negotiated," he said.

Hundreds of loose guns seized in Metro

By Tina Santos

THE MOST number of loose firearms were confiscated in Metro Manila in the first six months of the year, according to General Reynaldo Velasco, chief deputy director of the National Capital Region Police Office (NCRPO).

Velasco said that a total of 417 firearms out of the 3,085 firearms that were seized or surrendered to authorities came from the metropolis.

In Region 6, authorities seized 399 firearms, and in Region 7, 348.

In Central Luzon, authorities confiscated 318 firearms.

A total of 538 of these firearms were high-powered guns.

The rest were low caliber guns, usually used in street crimes.

Velasco announced the haul even as he directed Metro Manila policemen to continue their drive against loose firearms through "Oplan Bakal."

He said the NCRPO has also set up random checkpoints as part of the drive.

Velasco added that mobile patrol cars were being supported by policemen in motorcycles so that those who would try to evade police inspection would be immediately pursued.

Velasco said this was also part of the preemptive measure against organized crime groups involved in bank robberies, kidnapping and car thefts.

"Oplan Bakal," the police term used to describe the crackdown on loose firearms, has been stepped up following the spate of high-profile crimes in the metropolis, Velasco said.

"The campaign against loose firearms have been bearing fruit, but we should continue to step up our drive against unlicensed firearms to curb criminality," the NCRPO chief said.

He said the drive was necessary, in view of the continuing protest actions by various militant groups and the threat of terrorism by anti-government groups, especially with the approaching state visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18.

METROBRIEFS

Killer rock

IT TOOK a rock to end an argument between mother and son in Manila. Tony Formentera, 18, on Friday went into hiding in Navotas after he threw a rock at his mother, Gina, at their house in Purok 3, Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, police said. Gina was taken to the hospital where she died of her wound, SPO2 Steve Casimiro said. Casimiro said Gina scolded her son because he failed to clean up after their pet dog had soiled their yard. Tony got upset at his mother and threw a rock at her after she turned her back. That afternoon, police managed to track down and arrest Formentera. *Leila Salaverria*

Woman driven to suicide

AGNES Tan Buenaobra, 33, yesterday was found dead in a hut near her house in Barangay Doña Imelda, Galas, Quezon City. Police believed Buenaobra's philandering husband drove the woman to kill herself. Buenaobra's maid, Joan Alcantara, found the body of her employer. SPO1 Fedencio Basibas said investigators found a note near Buenaobra's body. The note was addressed to her husband, asking him to be careful of sexually transmitted diseases in his dealings with women. The husband could not be reached for comment. *Tina Santos*

2 sides to a homicide

PO1 VOLTAIRE Esguerra yesterday surrendered to the Western Police District after he allegedly shot to death Edmar R. Vidan, 40, and wounded Josefino Palacios, 30, both of Pandacan, Manila. In an interview, Esguerra said he was walking home to Zamora Street in Pandacan when a group of men, including the victims, insulted him. When he confronted the men, Vidan allegedly pulled out a shotgun, prompting Esguerra to open fire with his 9-mm service pistol. But according to the investigation of SPO2 Virgo Villareal, Esguerra was drinking with his friends at a street corner at around 12:30 a.m. yesterday when one of the suspect's friends provoked an argument with a group of gamblers. Soon, a fistfight was in full swing where Esguerra fired his gun. Vidan and Palacios were wounded and taken to the Philippine General Hospital. Vidan was declared dead on arrival, police said. *Leila Salaverria*

Baby dies in Tondo fire

THE BLAZE lasted only 10 minutes, but it was enough to kill eight-month-old Cassandra Caballero. The baby's mother, Giovanni, 25, was also hurt in the morning fire that had hit their rented room in Parola Compound, Tondo, Manila. F03 Emmanuel Gaspar said the blaze began at 6:40 a.m. at the two-story shanty of Marcelino Barrientos. The blaze reached second alarm before it was put out. Damage to the property was estimated at P10,000. Giovanni sustained first degree burns and was taken to the Gat Andres Bonifacio Hospital. Investigators, quoting witnesses, said a candle left burning in Caballero's room could have started the fire. *Leila Salaverria*

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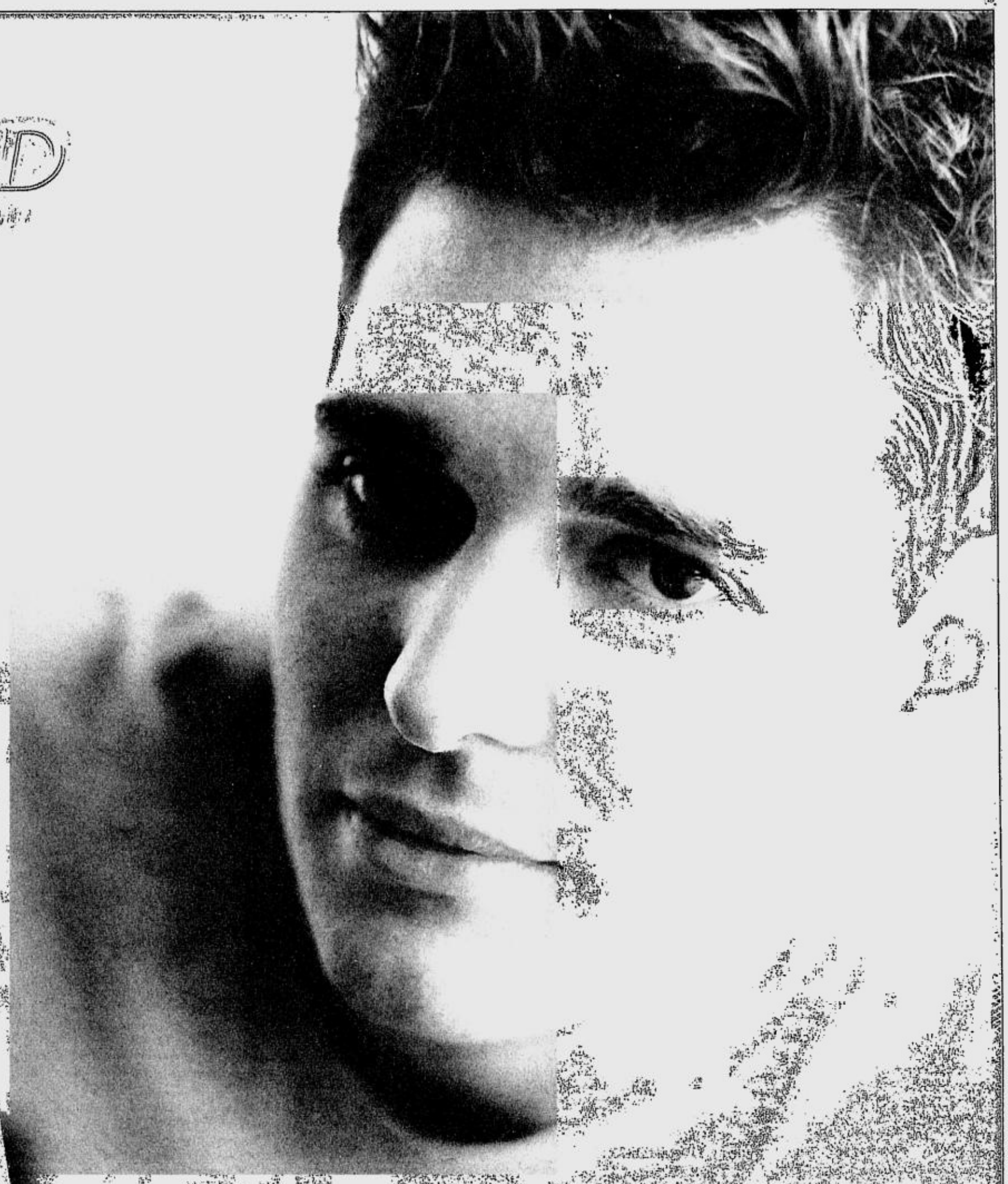

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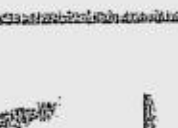

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MOTOR SPORTS: F1 2003 Japanese Grand Prix Qualifying; 7:30 a.m. (r); Race Day; 12:30 p.m.; Star Sports—Michael Schumacher officially goes for his sixth driver's title as the 2003 F1 season concludes in the Land of the Rising Sun.

BASKETBALL: Nets vs. Celtics Game 4 2002 Eastern Conference Finals; 8 a.m. (r-4:30 p.m.); Solar Sports—Despite 30+ point performances from Boston's Paul Pierce and Antoine Walker, New Jersey's Jason Kidd (19 points, 9 assists) leads the Nets to a two-point Game 4 victory over the Celtics to tie the series, 2-2.

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday SPORTS

A25

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

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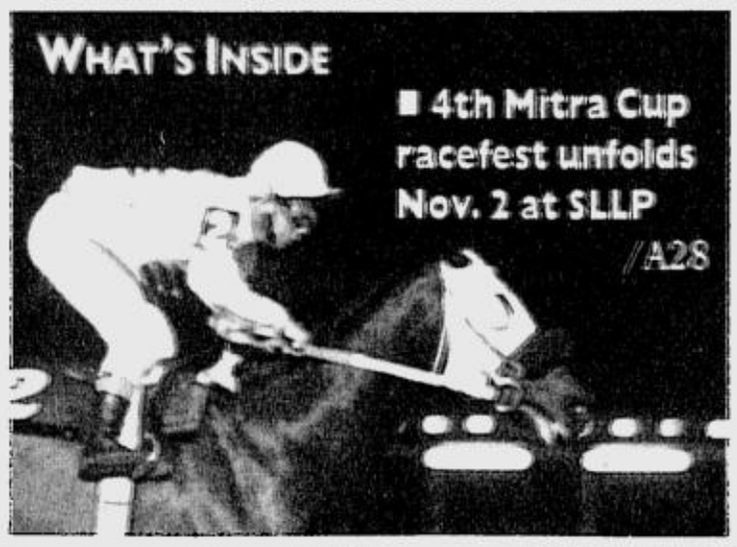
■ Kobe rejoins LA Lakers /A27



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ 4th Mitra Cup racefest unfolds Nov. 2 at SLLP /A28

Tañamor assured of bronze

KARACHI, Pakistan—Light flyweight Harry Tañamor clobbered Kaezov Aedlot of Kazakhstan, 21-7, Friday night to assure RP Team Revicon of at least a bronze medal in the Green Hill Cup Boxing Tournament at the P.T. Complex here.

The 24-year-old Tañamor, a prize find from Zamboanga City, was all over his opponent from the opening bell as he evaded the controversial losses absorbed by compatriots Arlan Lerio and Florencio Ferrer in the tough 12-nation field.

A member of the Army special service unit under Col. Manuel Marcon, Tañamor will next face PDL Bedak of Hungary in the semifinals on Saturday.

Tañamor's win somewhat eased the frustrations felt by head coach George Caliwan and assistant Nolito "Boy" Velasco, who thought Lerio and Ferrer were robbed of victories.

Lerio, like Tañamor a gold medalist in the 1st Goa International Championship in India just last week, hit Kim I-hyon of North Korea with crisp blows, but the five judges in their bantamweight quarterfinal bout scored it 15-17 against the Sydney Olympics veteran.

Even head jury Z. Sabeb of Pakistan was dissatisfied with the results, accosting the judges and berating them for what seemed to be a conspiracy to deny Lerio a spot in the medal round.

9-BALL TOURNEY

Bata whips Django, tops World Classic

EFREN "Bata" Reyes outclassed Filipino compatriot Francisco "Django" Bustamante, 13-4, yesterday to win the 2003 World Classic Billiards 9-Ball tournament and bag $12,000 (P650,000) in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates.

Reyes and Bustamante, the 1-2 punch of the country in the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games this December, whipped 2002 world pool Cardiff champ Earl "The Pearl" Strickland of the US and reigning world pool titlist Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, respectively, in the semifinals to pave the way for the all-RP showdown.

The 49-year-old Reyes, who earlier made it to the 2003 Billiard Congress of America (BCA) Hall of Fame, underscored his superb form by blanking Strickland, 12-0.

The victory was a big boost for Reyes, who will defend his title in the upcoming 2003 World Pool League starting Oct. 22 in Warsaw, Poland.

Aristeo "Putch" Puyat, president of Puyat Sports, was elated by the superb showing of his protegés in the Dubai meet.

He said he was happy that Mario Tolentino, another Filipino based in Dubai and who represented UAE in the tourney, has joined Reyes, Bustamante, Canada-based Alex Pagulayan and veteran Jose "Amang" Parica in upholding the country's high status in world billiards.

REYES

Meanwhile, Santos Sambajon and Parica continued their winning ways in the Fury World Summit of Pool 9-ball tournament at the Amsterdam Billiards in Manhattan, New York City.

The 43-year-old North Terrance, California-based Sambajon outplayed Evan Broxmeyer, 11-1, and will next face Frankie Hernandez, who beat Danny Harriman, 11-9.

Sambajon, who had a bye in the first round, got going by crushing Jack Maginnis, 11-4.

Parica, the 54-year-old La Puente, California resident also known as "The Giant Killer," crushed Mike Abou-daher, 11-9, to advance against Ronnie Wiseman, who blanked Tony Crosby, 11-0.

Parica also drew a bye in the first round then opened his campaign by outplaying Danny Hewitt, 11-5.

Four-time world champion Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer of the US drubbed Carmen Lombardo, 11-4, to move up against Mike Davis, an 11-9 winner over Jarrod Clowery.

Archer, a five-time Player of the Year, beat Canadian-based Filipino Edwin Montal, 11-7, in his second game.

Other notable cue artists advancing to the next round were 2001 World Pool Cardiff champ Mika "The Iceman" Immonen of Finland, Danny "The Kid Delicious" Basavich, Charlie "The Korean Dragon" Williams, Bill Fergusson, Jimmy Wetch, Bill Fergusson, Tony Robles, Steve Lipsky and Rodney Morris of the US and Niels "Terminator" Feijen of the Netherlands. *With a report from Marlon Bernardino*

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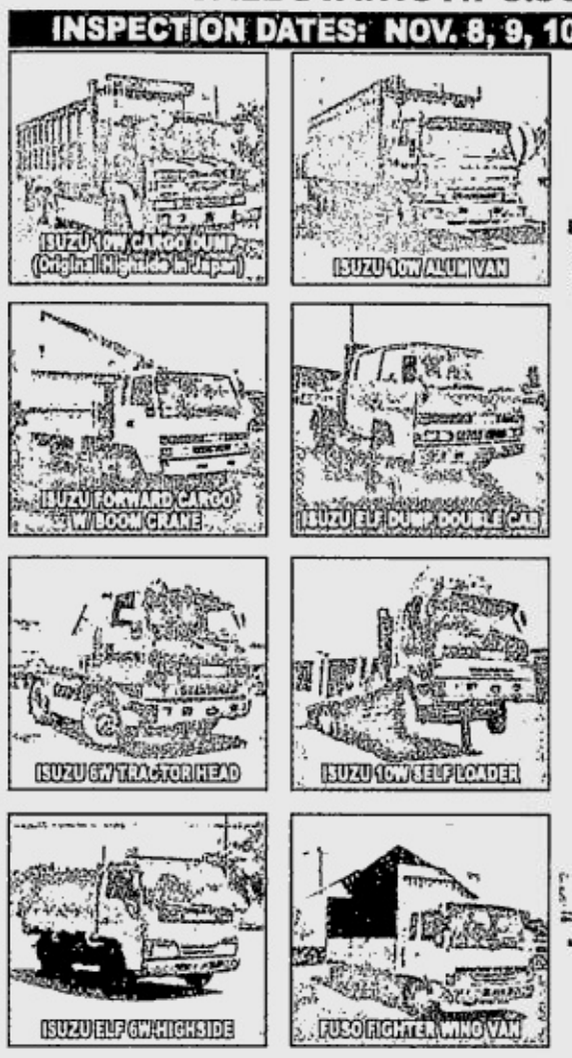

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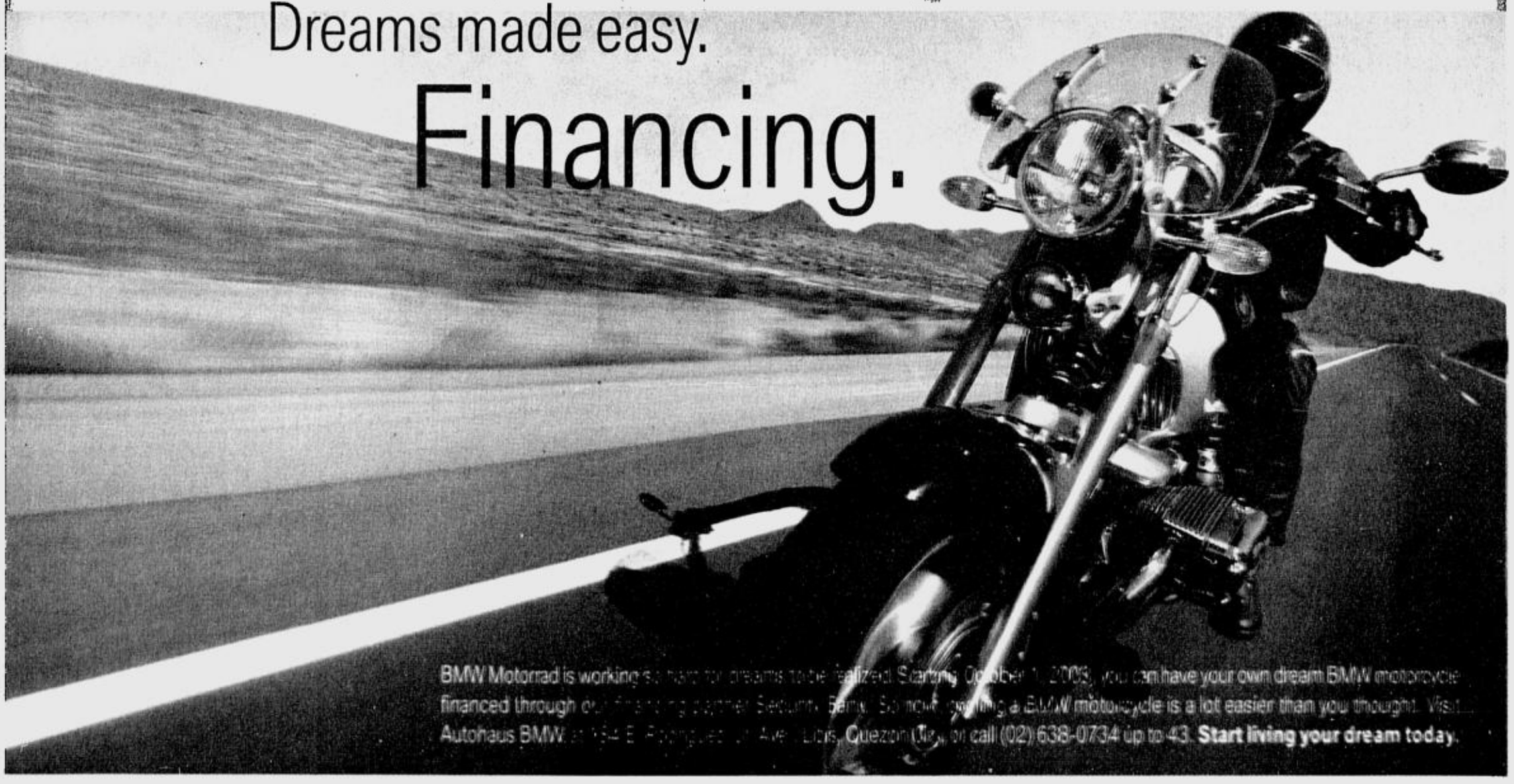

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MILLER: Game's best player PDI PHOTO

5TH STRAIGHT WIN

Red Bull edges Shell

GAMES TODAY
(Araneta Coliseum)
4 p.m.—Alaska vs San Miguel
6:30 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan—Davonn Harp powered his way in for a layup with 3.9 ticks left to carry Red Bull to an 80-78 squeaker over Shell last night in the Samsung PBA Reinforced Conference at the Puerto Princesa Coliseum here.

Harp received the inbound from Willie Miller maneuvered past Shell import Jamal Kendrick for the game-clinching basket that gave the Barakos their fifth straight win.

Miller was later adjudged the game's best player by sparking the fourth-quarter rally that wiped out a 62-50 lead by Shell, in the third period of the game sponsored by Air Philippines and hosted by Puerto Princesa mayor Edward Hagedorn.

The Barakos improved to 7-2 and moved two games away from clinching a quarterfinal seat in Group B.

The Turbochargers fell to 3-6, giving Barangay Ginebra, at 4-5, the edge in their race for the last quarterfinal berth in the same group.

The game seemed headed for overtime when Rensy Bajar cooly sank two pressure-packed free throws that tied the count at 78 with 7.1 seconds left until Harp came up with the game's biggest goal.

Meanwhile, Damian Owens returns to Sta. Lucia Realty as replacement for the injured Nate James when the Realtors face the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs at 6:30 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

James hurt his leg and played with a limp in the past two games, leaving the Realtors no choice but to look for a worthy replacement in the face of their inconsistent showing.

Scores:

RED BULL 80—Harp 21, Miller 15, Pennisi 10, Robinson 9, Tporion 7, Se 5, Burrell 4, Villanueva 4, Valenzuela 3, Asaytono 2, Tugade 0, Reyes 0, Hizon 0.

SHELL 78—Kendrick 25, Laure 15, Dela Cruz 14, Singson 10, Tubid 6, Bajar 6, Calagulo 2, Jackson 0, Marzan 0

Quarters: 23-15, 36-39, 50-62, 80-78.

Manila Games co-hosts told to file new bids

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NAGA CITY wants basketball, Bacolod, football and swimming and Tubod, Lanao del Norte, archery.

These were the preferences made by prospective co-hosts of the 2005 Southeast Asian Games after the Philippine Olympic Committee asked interested parties to file new bids following the drafting of new requirements.

With Metro Manila sure to be chosen as main SEAG host, cities and provinces wanting to also stage competitions will have to settle for just one or two events.

A co-host of an event should also have the capacity to shoulder the expenses of hosting the athletes and officials of the 10 member-nations of the SEAG Federation.

Naga City councilor Jun Lavadia, speaking in behalf of Mayor Jesse Robredo, said Bicol's capital city is interested in staging even just the basketball competitions.

In fact, Lavadia said the city is close to finishing a 12,000-seat basketball arena named after the late Camarines Sur Rep. Rolando Andaya Sr. He said the multi-purpose arena can rival even the Araneta Coliseum, site of the 1991 SEAG cage event.

"If we are given just one event, we will go for basketball because of its huge popularity in our city," said Lavadia, who added that they also want to host the volleyball, taekwondo, badminton and table tennis events.

Lavadia, who is also the deputy secretary general of the Basketball Association of the Philippines, said Naga City is "ready to spend" just to co-host the SEAG.

Bacolod, a leading co-host aspirant, wants to host football due to its tremendous popularity in Negros, as well as swimming.

Lanao del Norte, which boasts of the new Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod, is setting its sight at hosting archery among other sports disciplines.

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Taiwan netter trips Arevalo

SECOND seed Taiwanese Hwang I-Hsuan turned back top-ranked Filipino Czarina Mae Arevalo, 6-4, 5-7, 6-2, yesterday to win the girls' singles title in the Enervon Tablet-Futures Foundation International Juniors Tennis Championships at the Ynares Socio-Cultural Sports Center in Pasig City.

Hwang, Taiwan's No. 2 junior player and No. 275 in the ITF Juniors rankings, also won the doubles title with compatriot Tai Yu-Lin following a 6-0, 6-0 thrashing of Filipino duo Ivy de Castro and Noelle Conchita Zoleta.

"It was a tough match," said the 15-year-old Hwang after the grueling three-hour duel with Arevalo, currently No. 173 in the ITF juniors rankings and the country's No. 1 women's player.

It was the second singles title for Hwang after winning an ITF junior group 4 event in Sri Lanka last March. She won her first doubles title last year in a group 3 event in New Delhi, India.

Fourth seed Korean Lin Wei-Ting defeated third seed compatriot Lee Seong-Woo, 6-3, 6-1, for the boys' singles title.

Jao seeks No. 7

DEFENDING champion Jolet Jao shoots for his seventh road race crown as the Shell Advance Super Bikes Series stages its championship round today at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

Jao virtually had the title in the bag with 224 points and a win in race 11 would seal his win in this event sanctioned by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (Namssa).

With that, focus will shift on the battle between Toti Alberto of Ducati-Manila and Benjo Mendoza of Speedeffex for the runner-up finish in this series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corporation, Toyota Motors Phils., Kilton Motors, MOF Company, Norkis Yamaha, Pagcor Sports and supported by Addict Mobile and Ford Lynx.

Truck Challenge set

THE 3RD Tough Truck Challenge gets going on Nov. 28 to 30 at the Fort Bonifacio Global City.

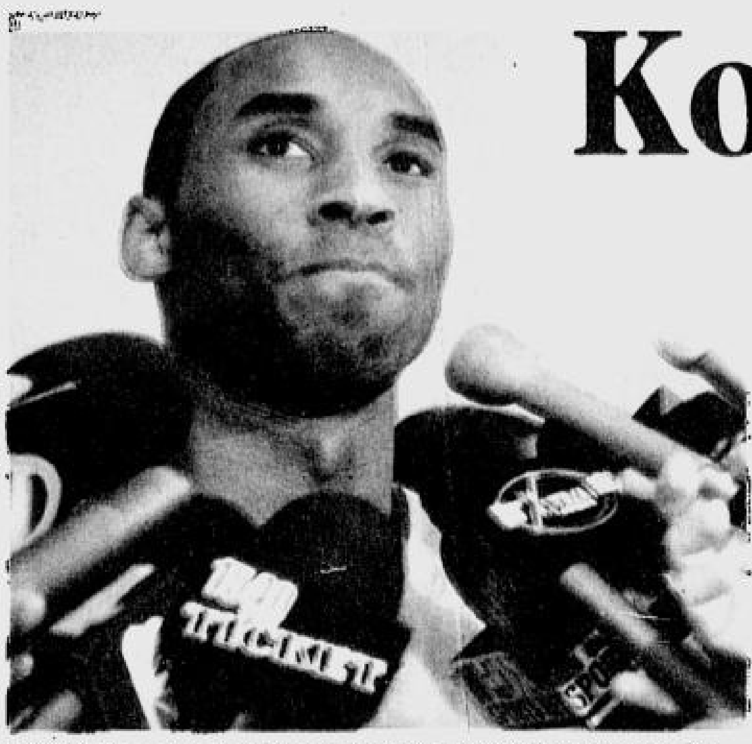
As an added attraction to the 4x4 extravaganza, organizers of the 3rd Tough Truck Challenge are presenting "Stocks on the Rocks," a special side event aimed at testing the capabilities of stock 4x4 trucks and sports utility vehicles, without them having to go through an actual competition.

Slated on Nov. 29 and 30 (Saturday and Sunday) from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon and 2:30 to 5 p.m., "Stocks on the Rocks" is essentially an open 4x4 Test Track, where owners of stock 4x4 trucks and SUVs will be able to go on four wheel drive on their own vehicles.

"Owners need not go all the way to the mountains to get a feel of four wheeling," said Brian Diaz, president of the organizing Manila Offroaders Inc. (Mori).

Ramon To-ong, treasurer of Mori, said interested parties may call Dr. Mark Macias at (02) 771-9282.

Kobe rejoins LA Lakers



BRYANT faces reporters and photographers during the Lakers media day at the team training center in El Segundo, California, Friday. AP

EL SEGUNDO, California—Kobe Bryant returned to practice Friday as if nothing were wrong, smiling for the cameras, posing for Los Angeles Lakers promotional spots and laughing and joking with the team's staff.

But there were obvious signs it wasn't a typical preseason media day: Extra security was posted inside and outside the gym and coach Phil Jackson described the horde of media as "a feeding frenzy."

On Thursday, Bryant attended a preliminary hearing in Colorado where a judge will decide whether there is enough probable cause to order him to trial on a sexual assault charge.

Bryant said he never doubted that he would rejoin his teammates Friday.

"Oh, yeah, I got to come to work, right? No big deal," he said.

The hearing will resume Wednesday, a day after the Lakers play Phoenix in San Diego, a preseason game Bryant didn't know if he would miss.

"I'm not really here to talk about hearings," he said. "Anybody got any questions about the season and my teammates, I'd be more than happy to answer those."

Jackson lamented the amount of energy being expended on what he called "celebrity chasing that is really crazy."

"It's really insane," he said. "We got to kind of shape it up a little bit in this country.

"People are dying in Baghdad and Iraq. Situations around the world are much more disastrous and dangerous and the focus of the media to spend so much energy on this just throws me into a loop sometimes."

A sheriff's detective testified Thursday in graphic detail how Bryant allegedly attacked a 19-year-old woman at a resort hotel where she worked in Colorado.

Jackson hopes the court will set a timetable for future hearings and a potential trial which would give the Lakers an idea of when media scrutiny will be most intense.

Bryant is rehabilitating from a knee surgery he had in June, a day after he allegedly attacked the woman.

Jackson said it's possible Bryant could play his first game of the season either Oct. 16 or 17, when the Lakers host Phoenix, Cleveland and the Clippers in a two-day preseason round-robin.

Meanwhile, in what analysts say is an abrupt shift in strategy, prosecutors in the Kobe Bryant case asked the judge to close at least a portion of the preliminary hearing when it resumes next week.

Prosecutors made the request in private after defense attorneys, during the hearing on Thursday, questioned the sexual history of the woman who accused the NBA star of rape. *AP*

Glad, glad Glenda

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

GLENDA da Roza is going to Portugal next month not because of Portuguese sardines. Not even *bacalao*. She is going there because of golf.

"I can't believe this is happening," said Glenda, her bright, charming eyes sparkling in the glare of the spotlight during the awards ceremonies on Friday emceed, funnily as always, by the inimitable Johnny Litton.

Glenda had topped the women's side of the BMW Golf Cup International at the Manila Southwoods' Legends to earn a shot at the BMW world golf crown in Portugal's romantic capital of Lisbon on Nov. 3-8.

"It was farthest from my mind that I'd win today," said Glenda. "In fact, I had thought of not showing up. I felt I wasn't ready. I played last Wednesday and my game was awful. Only when Quito egged me on, encouraged me to put up a real fighting spirit, that I finally had the courage to show up for my starting tee time today."

Quito, of course, is Glenda's hubby.

Quito, a mild-mannered, mustachioed person of many talents, was a many-time pillar of the fabled Marlboro Tour cycling marathon. From the '70s up to the mid-'90s, Quito's name was synonymous with cycling. Back then, you couldn't imagine having the so-called summer spectacle on wheels without Quito in it. It's like a horse-and-carriage thing. The event can't run without Quito, who is now a De La Salle professor after Marlboro pulled out its sports sponsorships due to the international ban on alcohol and tobacco advertisements.

Oh, the times I had, both good and bad, covering those cycling marathons.

Almost for 14 straight years, I was a mainstay of the so-called "back pack." Back pack as when we hardy boys from the press were always ordered by Quito's Tour marshals to put our vehicles at the back of the pack of cyclists as much as possible. Never in front of the lead pack.

"For everybody's safety," Quito's lieutenants kept telling us. And we always obeyed; lawbreakers are thrown out of the entourage like excess baggage.

Unforgettable. You remember one time, Quito, when Glenda gave birth to your son on the 19th of April while the cycling marathon had its stop in Cebu City? Was that in 1977, 1979? I was the first to know about it. You broke the news to me right after I had filed my story for the day. I was pleasantly surprised, of course. Why, you didn't know then that that was also the day I was born. And, if only for trivia purposes, Erap, too.

Ah, we held an impromptu celebration, Quito. That was a day to end all days. We were far from our loved ones and we only had each other to share the moment. Gosh, did we gulp a *kahon* each of San Miguel Beer inside my hotel room at Kan Irag that night, with *pochero*, *nocos* and *danggit* as our *pulutan*?

I can't remember, anymore. But it doesn't matter now. Generally, it's in the remembering of an event that makes memories last. The details are but gravy.

Anyway, before this deteriorates into a soap opera, back to Glenda.

You know how Glenda won it on Friday?

She bucked a no-point 9 at No. 14 of The Legends with a 20-foot, par putt on her penultimate hole en route to a 42 under the Stableford System—a wondrous 6-under effort in the sun and humid condition. Glenda, a 16-handicapper, beat Marilyn Reyes and Violy Pagles.

"Really, it was my putting that saved the day for me," said Glenda, who dropped 8-foot putts with unerring consistency it seemed obvious she was destined to win it as the day wore on. I saw her sink an 8-footer for par after putting short from about 16 feet. She rammed home the 8-footer like she was tossing a peanut into a manhole.

Glenda will be joined by Katy Katigbak and Lito Abad (Joey Marquez' Man Friday) in the Portugal mission to keep the BMW world crown won last year by the Filipino trio of Nancy Co, Roland Garcia and Peegee Silo. Katigbak actually finished second behind Severino Liao but because Liao was in the first BMW event in 2001, Katigbak got the slot. Rules say a champion can't join the trip for the next two years; thus, Liao will only be eligible again next year.

It will be a tough act to follow since there are 35 countries in attendance this year, said Lito Alvarez Jr. of the sponsoring Prestige Cars.

But for Glenda, she's focused on the mission the minute she won her berth.

"I called up Quito on my cell phone and, after the initial blast of hoorays, he turned grim and sounded serious," said Glenda.

What were his first words?

"We will prepare hard for it," Quito said to Glenda. "To begin with, I'll be your caddy from here on, Mommy."

Knowing Quito, himself a low handicapper, he won't let our country down.

***

FASTBREAK. Again, cheers to the winners of today's Tour of Pangasinan bankrolled by cycling godfather Bert Lina in tandem with Air21 president Lito Alvarez. But more than anything, my felicitations also go to the 16 cycling legends of Pangasinan, who will be feted this afternoon at the Mangatarem Grand Finish, led by many-time champion Jesus A. Garcia Jr., the 1973 and 1977 Tour king and now a sports columnist himself of the Dagupan Sun-Star daily.

Badminton tilt attracts huge field

THE OVERWHELMING turnout of participants during last week's qualifying round of the First Epson Cup has forced organizers to trim down the number of competitors to a manageable figure.

Badminton enthusiasts continue to come in droves as of yesterday as tournament organizers said a total of 450 participants saw action in over two weeks of qualifying held at the Pioneer Badminton Hall on Pioneer Street, Mandaluyong City.

Chief organizer Edmin Tarriela expects the list to bloat even more due to the uncontrolled influx of shuttlecock artists wanting to see action in the main tournament on Oct. 25-26 sponsored by Epson Philippines, FHM, Victor, Whistlestop and Pacific Internet.

Other backers include radio stations Magic 89.9, Wave 89.1, 99.5 RT, 103.5 K-lite and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

"The response was impressive. We didn't expect it would turn out that way. It only shows how the sport of badminton has been fast shaping up as one of the favorite sports in the country," said Tarriela, who also manages Pioneer Badminton Hall, a haven of unparalleled leisure for badminton fanatics.

Tarriela said registration for the tournament had been fully booked last Tuesday but organizers would still continue and wrap up the qualifying rounds today at PBH from 10 in the morning to 4 p.m..

"The leveling of players will continue because some of the participants have not been leveled yet," explained Tarriela.

He added the total number of registered players stood at 312 while more than a hundred has been put on the wait list.

After all the participants are distributed evenly among the teams—Team Epson, Pioneer Badminton Team, FHM and Whistlestop—the organizers will then announce the complete lineup of the competing squads on Oct. 17.

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Osaka netfest set Oct. 18-19

ACTION in the Osaka Iridology Tennis Circuit will resume on Oct. 18-19 at the Cebu Country Club.

More than 100 young netters from the Visayas and Mindanao region are expected to participate in this monthly tournament organized by Osaka Iridology and sanctioned by the Cebu City Sports Commission (CCSC) headed by Jonathan Guardo.

National campaigners Janji Soquino and Jin Quirubin led the winners in the first leg last September.

For registration, please call Fritz Tabora at tel. nos. (032)269-4910 and 0920-2142593.

SPORTSWATCH

RAIKKONEN

Barrichello takes pole

SUZUKA, Japan—Finn Kimi Raikkonen was left with an uphill battle in his championship chase after a late rain shower here Saturday put Rubens Barrichello in pole position for the Japanese Grand Prix. McLaren-Mercedes driver Raikkonen was unable to do any better than eighth place but his hopes were lifted slightly as Michael Schumacher, himself hampered by the slippery track, finished down in 14th. Raikkonen was driving teammate David Coulthard's car after crashing his in practice and was beaten by the seventh-placed Scot to leave him with a tough task to win the race and have any chance of taking the title. Ferrari driver Barrichello's time of one minute, 31.713 seconds beat Williams driver Juan Pablo Montoya as the pair helped their teams in the battle for the constructors' world championship. *AFP*

Sorenstam earns Hall; Pak sets pace

THE WOODLANDS, Texas—Annika Sorenstam played a historic round of golf Friday that qualified her for the LPGA Hall of Fame. It only left her tied for second place in the Samsung World Championships. Se Ri Pak finished the long rain-delayed 36-hole day at 7-under 137, two strokes in front of Sorenstam and four others. Sorenstam needed to complete 18 holes as the last step in adding the Hall of Fame to her illustrious career. She got that with a 2-under 70 in the first 18 holes and followed with a 69 at the TPC at The Woodlands. Sorenstam finished her second round just as darkness fell. She thought she'd have to return early Saturday to complete the round. *AP*

Flesch, Verplank tied in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS—Steve Flesch and Scott Verplank shared the lead at the Las Vegas Invitational on Friday with one of the lowest 54-hole scores in PGA Tour history. Flesch wasn't satisfied. "I don't want to sound like sour grapes, I just know what it could be," he said after a 6-under 66 at the TPC at Summerlin course. Verplank shot a 66 at the Southern Highlands course to join Flesch at 23-under 192. That ties for the third lowest 54-hole total at a tour event. Stuart Appleby was one shot back after a 63 at Summerlin, while Scott McCarron (64), Tim Herron (66) and Woody Austin (65) were at 195 in the 90-hole event. Both the 72-hole tour record of 254, set two weeks ago by Tommy Armour III at the Texas Open, and the 90-hole record, 324 by Joe Durant at the Bob Hope Classic in 2001, are in jeopardy. *AP*

Estrabo beats novice opponents

ORLY Estrabo bested 24 others to top the novice division of the 7th Sletba Open Championships at the Sta. Lucia East Grandmall. Estrabo rolled 1,958 pins in 10 games to beat Ching Cruz and Benny Lazaro of Sletba for the top honor among beginners in the meet backed by Red Bull Barako, Panasonic Mobile phone, Fortune Tobacco, Freysinet, New Solanie Hotel and On The Grill Restaurant. Cruz finished with a score of 1,923 while Lazara had 1,913 to cop second and third place, respectively. RP Youth standout Jeremy Posadas, meanwhile, paces the singles event of the masters division with 1,009 even as Sletba's Mark Marquez wrested the lead (1,730) in the all-events. In the graded masters, Manoy Sengson leads the singles (948) while Yu is on top of the all-events (1,815). Cruz, on the other hand, is showing the way in the singles event of the combined ladies division (927), with Girlie Solis heading the all-events (1560).

Araneta hosting 'Arnismaster' meet

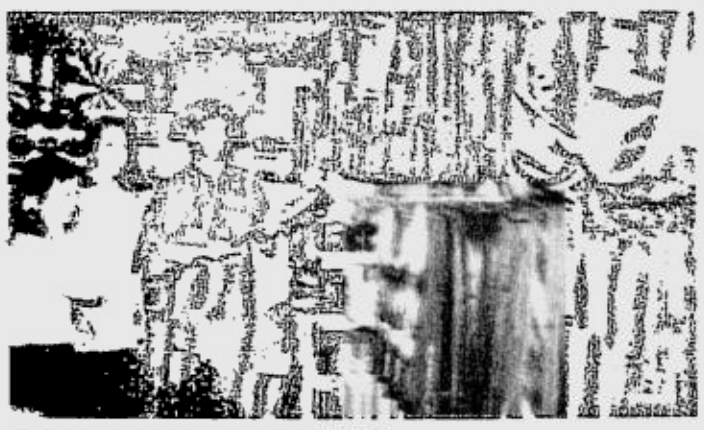
A BIG field of participants are seeing action in the upcoming Ucap Arnismaster 7-Stag Derby on Oct. 20 and 22 at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum. Ucap president Raymond Velayo, derby host, has invited more than 40 cockers and breeders all over the country. Three Ucap stag derbies will be staged this year to determine the Ucap Stagfighter of the Year winner, who will receive P300,000 and a trophy. Sonny Lagon of Laguna (JBB Blue Blade) won the title last year. Currently leading the race is newspaper publisher Butch Macasaet (Greenwood) who won the first leg last Sept. 12. Hotelier-sportsman Biboy Enriquez (Firebird) is in second place with 6.5 points. The 3rd Ucap 7-Stag Derby unfolds on Oct. 27 and 29, with hosts Alex Tang of Bicol and Jet Fernando of Pampanga.

Futurity race at Santa Ana Park

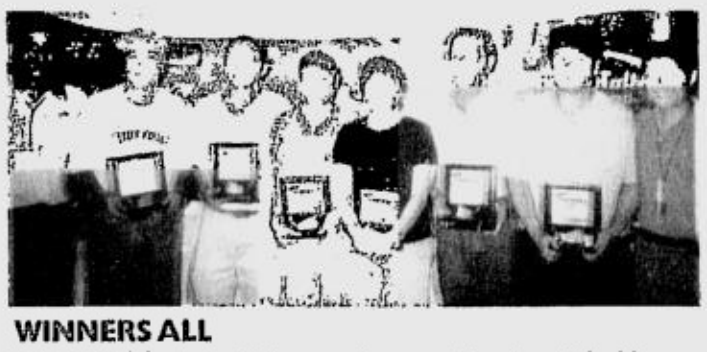
SIX classy thoroughbreds will take part in the 2003 Grand Futurity Stakes Race at Santa Ana Park today. The event is the Philippine Racing Club's annual racefest exclusive for gallopers that had their first start last year at the Makati-based racetrack. Carrying a total pot of P550,000, this year's edition caps six days of racing marking the start of a month-long Octoberfest celebration. Heading the cast in the race which gives P400,000 to the winner is noted stakes campaigner Speed Machine, a 3-year-old filly who is coming off an impressive win recently in group company. Challenging Speed Machine in the 1,800-meter contest are War Hero, King Rick, Moneyline, Red Strip and Southern Charm.

Fistorama, Golf Power shown today

SAMSUNG'S Fistorama today features two exciting six-rounders in the flyweight and lightflyweight divisions. Gomer Minosa faces Danilo Bayo at 112 lbs and Fistorama's knockout sensation, Benedict Suico, squares off with Demmy Bracuso at 108 lbs. The fights were held recently at the Ormoc Superdome in Ormoc City. Now on its second year, the show will be aired starting today on its new regular time slot at 2 p.m., Sundays, on RPN 9. It is backed by Samsung Electronics Phils. Corp. and Cebu Pacific. Golf Power follows immediately, also on its new regular time slot at 3 p.m. on RPN 9.



BADMINTON EQUIPMENT
Malaysian Hafiz Hashim (3rd from left), Yones All-England 2003 champion, recently visited the Sportshouse outlet at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong to look at badminton equipment on sale. With Hashim are Sportshouse marketing director Roy Ordiales (second from left) and former Olympian Weena Lim.



WINNERS ALL
Winners of the recent Samsung Amateur Tour leg at the Negros Occidental Golf and Country Club in Bacolod are shown with organizer Boy Blue Ocampo (left) and Toto Rivera of the host club (right). They are JR Tanpinco, Alex Montelibano, Maita Lustre, Anya Tanpinco, Tim Zulueta and Carlitos Magno.

Cubs nose out Marlins, grab 2-1 lead in NL

MIAMI—Doug Glanville's hard grounder found a gap in the outfield, allowing Kenny Lofton to score all the way from first base to give the Chicago Cubs a 5-4 win over the Florida Marlins after 11 innings Friday.

The Cubs took a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven National League Championship Series, which continues at Pro Player Stadium Saturday and Sunday.

Chicago went up 2-0 early, fell behind briefly, but then took a 4-3 lead in the eighth on Randall Simon's two-run homer.

The Marlins knotted it at 4-4 in the last of the eighth, setting the stage for pinch-hitter Glanville's game-winning shot in the second extra frame.

"I was just trying to make good contact," the 33-year-old outfielder, who was originally drafted by Chicago in 1991, told reporters.

Glanville's winning shot, served up by fifth Marlins pitcher Braden Looper, rolled all the way to the wall, eluding a diving Jeff Conine in left field.

"You never know coming off the bench, anything can happen," Glanville said.

"This has been unbelievable. Having a chance to get to the World Series is what it is all about. I'm pretty locked in right now." The scrappy Marlins, playing before more than 60,000 towel-waving fans, did not go quietly, though.

Luis Castillo was struck out by Mike Remlinger, the fourth Chicago pitcher, with one out in the last of the 11th. But the ball eluded Cubs catcher Paul Bako, allowing Castillo to scoot to first.

Ivan Rodriguez then bounced to Remlinger, sending Castillo to second. However, Castillo was tagged out trying to advance on a shot to third, ending the game.

Lofton not only scored the winning run, he came home on Sammy Sosa's single off Florida starter Mark Redman in the first.

The Cubs added to their lead in the second. Chicago starter Kerry Wood, throwing upwards of 95 mph, helped out with the bat, hitting to center to plate Eric Karros. *Reuters*

WIND BLOWN: Is he running in the Classic race of the 4th Mitra Cup Champi

Clemens vs Martinez

BOSTON—Roger Clemens versus Pedro Martinez. It's more than a baseball game.

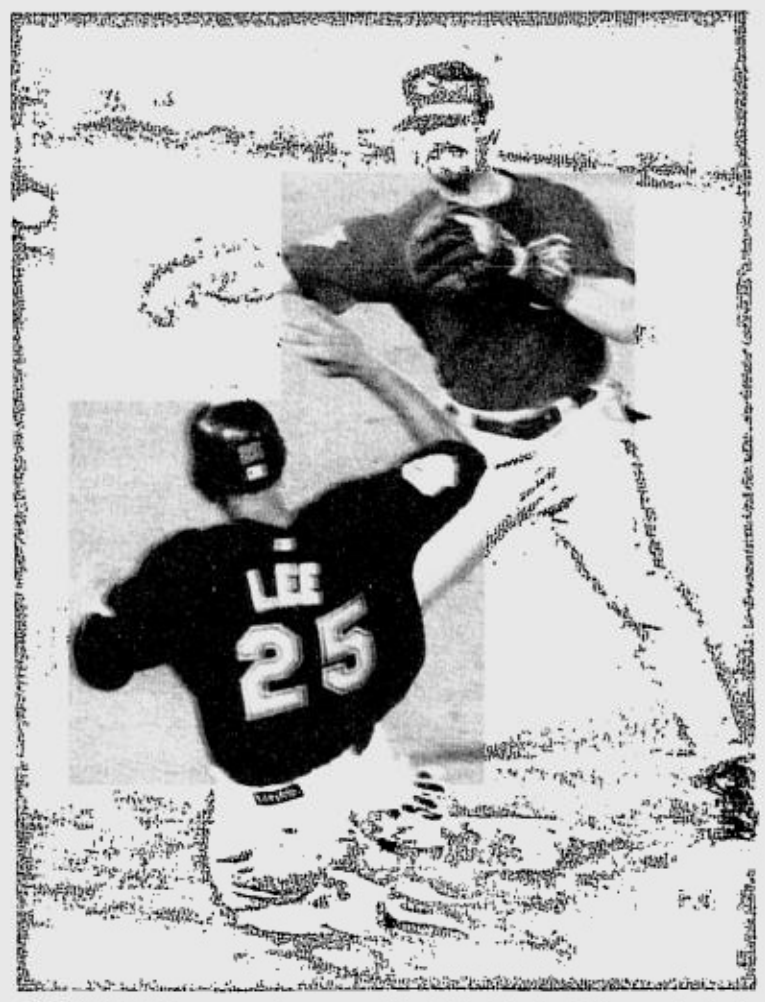
It's the star who left Boston against the pitcher who replaced him as the ace of the Red Sox.

It's the New York Yankees' warrior against an equally fierce but publicity-shy leader, a pair of prideful pitchers not afraid to leave batters sprawling.

And given that it is Clemens' final start in Fenway Park, where he spent the first 13 seasons of his Major League Baseball career, emotions are sure to be high Saturday when he pitches against Martinez in Game 3 of the AL championship series.

Yankees manager Joe Torre remembers how he felt Aug. 31, when Clemens was given a standing ovation by the Fenway faithful after his final regular-season appearance in Boston.

"It was a lot of goosebumps," Torre said Friday. *AP*



CHICAGO Cubs second baseman Mark Grudzielanek throws to first base after forcing out Florida Marlins' Derrek Lee at second during the sixth inning in Game 3 of the National League Championship Series at Pro Player Stadium in Miami, Friday, Oct. 10. Marlins' Miguel Cabrera was safe at first. AP

4th Mitra C unfolds No

TWO-TIME Horse of the Year Wind Blown, juvenile sensation Don Paolo and classy 3-year-olds West Bound and Success Story are just some of local racing's heavyweights who are expected to strut their wares when the Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization stages the fourth Philtobo Futurity Racing Festival-Mitra Cup Championships on Nov. 2 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Four major events, each carrying a guaranteed purse of P500,000, and two equally exciting championships are lined up in the racefest which will also be backed by special races bearing juicy additional prizes.

Hostilities in the Juvenile Colts, Juvenile Fillies, Three-Year-Old Colts, Three-Year-Old Fillies, Classic and Imports highlight the racing extravaganza jointly undertaken by the Philtobo, Philippine Racing Commission and host Manila Jockey Club Inc.

"Once again, the Philtobo is honored to stage the Mitra Cup Championships which is now on its fourth consecutive year of running. This racing festival is not only for the local racing industry but also for all the racing fans who continue to patronize the races," said Philtobo president Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr.

The annual racing spectacle which started in 2000 is being held in honor of the late Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr., considered as the movie force and one of the founding members of the Philtobo.

Niles presided over a rec

Bol wants to be tallest jockey

ANDERSON, Indiana—Manute Bol, the 2.31-meter (7-foot-7) former NBA player from Sudan, plans to follow his brief stints in ice hockey and boxing with a venture into horse racing.

Hoosier Park announced Friday that Bol plans to "become the world's tallest jockey" on Oct. 18.

The track, about 48 km (30 miles) northeast of Indianapolis, said Bol will become a licensed jockey with the Indiana Horse Racing Commission in an effort to raise money for his native country. The news release did not offer further details on Bol's plans on the racetrack.

It would not be the first time Bol has taken up a new sport in a promotion to support his Ring True Foundation, which raises money and awareness about problems in the civil war-torn Sudan.

On Nov. 12, 2002, Bol, who was known for blocking shots and shooting 3-pointers, agreed to terms to play with the Indianapolis Ice of the Central Hockey League. Four days later, he suited up for a home game, sitting behind the bench until his arthritic feet began to swell in his custom-made skates. He was out of uniform after one period of the game, which drew a season-high crowd of 5,859 to Conseco Fieldhouse. *AP*

Canadians meet US soccer bets

CARSON, California—Once a pushover, Canada is now a formidable foe for the United States which hopes to conclude its disappointing Women's World Cup with a decisive third-place victory Saturday.

The last time the Americans were in this position, in 1995, they beat China, 2-0, for the bronze medal. A year later, they won the Olympics. Three years after that, the United States took its second World Cup crown.

It's a precedent they like and hope to repeat.

"It's huge," goalkeeper Briana Scurry said of taking third place. "It would give some pride of actually getting something tangible out of this. We've worked so hard for the better part of two years and we've got to come away with a good feeling and know we gave our best."

Against Canada, the US women almost always have been better. They are 25-3-3 against the Canadians and have a 112-34 edge in goals. *AP*

Sports tourism drive goes

THE DEPARTMENT of Tourism's drive to make the Philippines an outstanding destination for sports, adventure and fitness enthusiasts worldwide goes full blast next month at the WOW Philippines Intramuros.

DOT Sec. Richard Gordon said that starting Nov. 7, the public will be treated to a highly discounted tour packages rates, as well as sports equipment and gear at extremely low prices.

"It is a grand celebration of the launch of sports tourism, or the birth of a niche and new market in Philippine tourism. We cannot underestimate the fast emerging global development in the sports and recreation industry. People worldwide have become very conscious of their fitness," said DOT Sports Tourism director Cynthia Carrion.

"It is time to make known to the world that we have the best diving and snorkeling sites, the best upland and lowland terrain for adventure sports seekers, the best golf courses in Asia. Our waters and the multitude of assets in the hinterlands of the more than 7,000 islands, if developed and promoted, will make this country a paradise for travelers worldwide," Carrion added.

In partnership with Visa International, the DOT, through its marketing arm, the Philippine Convention and Visitors Corp. (PCVC), stages this event as part of the two-month WOW Philippines Shopping Fiesta.

Star-studded sporting activities, such as badminton, golf and billiards

GORDON

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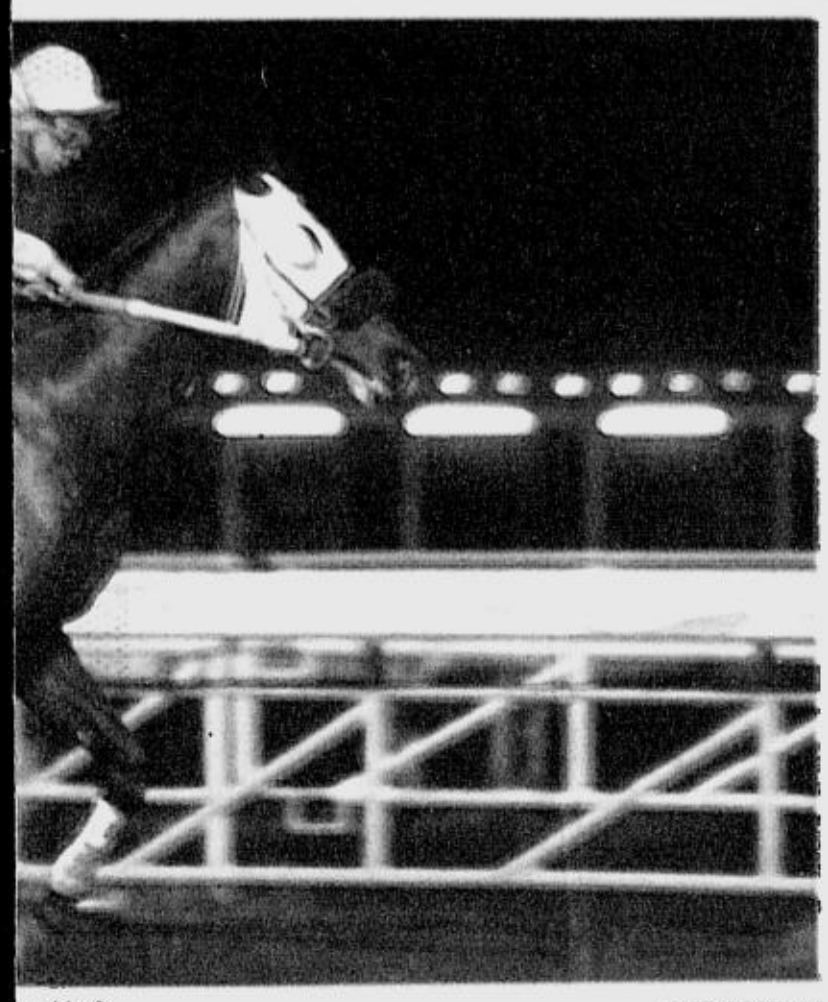


onships? JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

up racefest
v. 2 at SLLP

Philtobo board meeting where the holding of the fourth Mitra Cup Championships was finalized.

Also present were Antonio "Tonet" Lagdameo (chairman), Francisco "Koko" Cayco (vice president), Jesus Cantos (treasurer) and directors Manny Viray, Albert Yam, Mariano Tirona, Juanito Tionloc, Eduardo Gonzales, Michael Trillana and Ernesto Logarta Jr., as well as MJCI marketing head Henri Kahn.

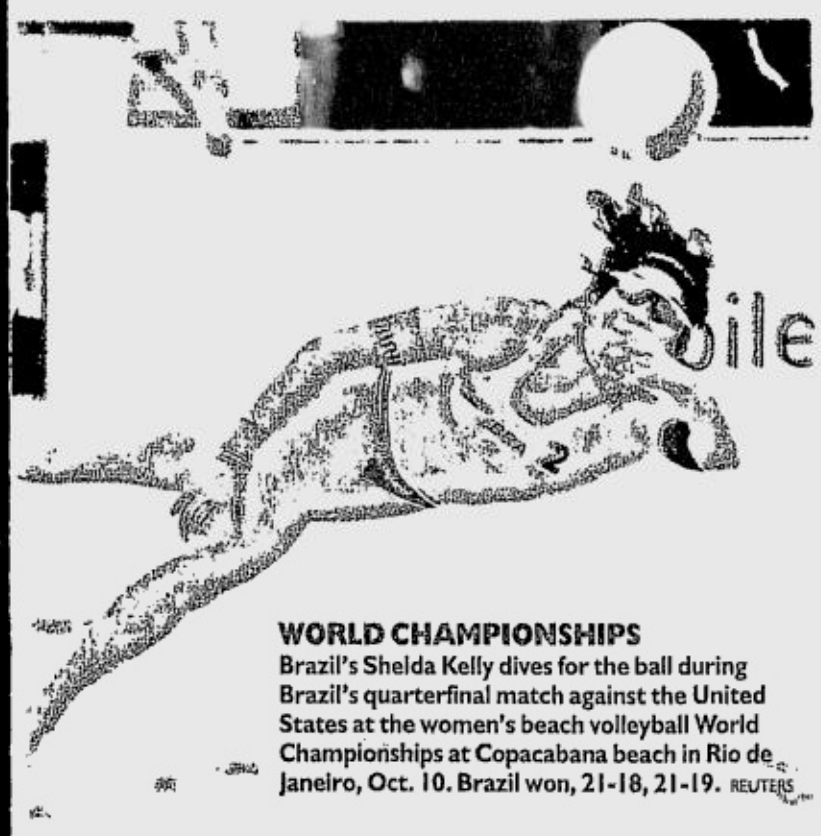
Other officials of the current Philtobo board are chairmen emeritus Augusto de Jesus, Antonio Floirendo Sr. and Benedicto Katigbak; corporate secretary Jose Ferdinand Rojas II, and directors Honorato Neri, Raymund Puyat, Eric Tagle and Augusto Benedicto Santos III.

Top four placers in the 3YO Colts and Fillies, Juvenile Colts and Fillies, and Classic will receive P300,000, P125,000, P50,000 and P25,000 each, respectively, while prizes in the Imports race are still being determined.

The Juvenile Colts, Juvenile Fillies (both 1,500 m) , 3YO Colts and 3YO Fillies (both 1,600 m) are restricted to graduates of the 2001 Philtobo Horse Show, while the Classic (2,050 m) is open to all localbred 4-year-old or older horses. The Imports (2,050 m) is open to all imported gallopers.

Deadline for the nomination/declaration for the six main races is on Oct. 17 at the Philtobo office (tel. no. 899-8313), PRCI Compound, Makati City.

Among those expected to see action in the various championships aside from Wind Blown, West Bound and Success Story are Golden Ballet, Free Wind, Security Master, High Octane, Material Maker, Don Paolo, Last Hazm, Sir Brendan Jean, Cat's Jewel, Gorgeous Sand, I Love This Game, Crystal Show, Neat Laurel, Absolute Charmer and Midnight Lady.



WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
Brazil's Shelda Kelly dives for the ball during Brazil's quarterfinal match against the United States at the women's beach volleyball World Championships at Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Oct. 10. Brazil won, 21-18, 21-19. REUTERS

ill blast next month

matches among key personalities and celebrities will add excitement to the event. Among the many exciting activities lined up for 24 days are the Philippine Tourism Authority-sponsored Ballroom Challenge, the Pagcor-sponsored Directors' Chess Championships, the Physical Challenge to be participated in by selected show biz personalities-politicians together with their constituents, the volleyball matches exclusively among of the UAAP, NCAA and rts aerobics marathon, and ng contest by the use of indigenous materials, among others.

Spectators will find many more exciting events throughout the 3-week show, like the 3X (X-tremely, X-citing, X-ploration) Adventure Race open to a group of four, the Watersports Expo which will showcase the 1st Wonder of Waters Wit Challenge (Quiz Bee) and the Sea Kingdom Painting Contest open to all elementary and tertiary students. Watersports Gear Fashion Show on Nov. 29, Sports Celebrities and Fans Day, Battle of the Bands (Pinoy Songs), and Disco for Fitness (open to public) are among the culminating activities.

Business opportunities await trade exhibitors. Several booth spaces are still up for market. For inquiries and reservation, please contact PCVC-Travel Trade Sales at (02)525-1255/525-9318, e-mail address tts@dotpcvc.gov.ph or log on to www.dotpcvc for online registration.

Philtobo shows the way

ONE WINNER

Edwin Villanueva

THREE weeks from now, one of the major races *kareristas* are eagerly awaiting for each year is unfolding at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

We are of course talking about the fourth running of the Philtobo-Mitra Cup Championships, the racing spectacle being held in honor of the late Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr.

So much excitement is generated by this festival because this is where the country's leading gallopers, young and old alike, collide against each other to determine who owns the biggest, most powerful strides in this side of the racing world.

This year's Mitra Cup, being staged by the solid, well-organized Philippine Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders Organization, promises to be another blockbuster just like the three previous runnings.

But the 2003 edition may yet surpass the others in terms of horses participation, prize money and horseowners-breeders' support, not to mention the backing of the other sectors of the racing industry and corporate sponsors.

The biggest attraction in the coming event is none other than the two-time Horse of the Year awardee Wind Blown.

If he gets the "go" from his connections, led by no less than Hermie Esguerra, Wind Blown may be entered in the Classic, one of the six championships lined up for the hectic Nov. 2 program.

But according to my Silip Boy, Wind Blown's handlers want to know which SLLP track (inner or outer) would be used for the Classic so that they can concentrate on giving him workouts in that specific area.

The other majors on tap are the Juvenile Colts, Juvenile Fillies, 3-Year-Old Colts, 3-Year-Old Fillies and the Imports.

This early, among those predicted to compete aside from Wind Blown are Don Paolo, Flying Jordan and Last Hazm in the Juvenile Colts; Cat's Jewel, Gorgeous Sand and I Love This Game in the Juvenile Fillies; West Bound, Success Story and High Octane in the 3-Year-old Colts; Golden Ballet, Free Wind and Material Maker in the Classic, and Neat Laurel, Crystal Show, Absolute Charmer, Midnight Lady and Cosanne in the Imports.

Accoding to my Silip Boy, the Philtobo, under the current leadership of its president, Bienvenido "Nonoy" Niles Jr., is leaving no stones unturned to make this year's Mitra Cup another record-breaking success.

Of course Niles, or Mang Nonoy to *karerista*s, is not alone in this endeavor. Kudos should also go to other members of the Philtobo board like chairmen emeritus Tonet Lagdameo, Antonio Floirendo Sr. and Dick Katigbak; vice president Koko Cayco, secretary Joy Rojas, treasurer Jess Cantos and directors Manny Viray, Albert Yam, Mar Tirona, Johnny Tionloc, Eric Tagle, Raymund Puyat, Ed Gonzales, Michael Trillana, Ernesto Logarta Jr., Honorato Neri and A.B. Santos III.

***

Top Quest, whose victory ignited the Alfredo Po-Dennis Camañero gun-pointing, errr, cell phone-pointing incident recently, won again last Friday night.

The following day, I was deluged by phone calls from *kareristas*, all of them asking whether Pat Dilema also got the "Camañero treatment."

All I could answer was "I don't know" because my ever reliable Silip Boy failed to make the rounds of the various stables yesterday morning.

What I know, I also told them, is the fact that up to now, the Philracom has not yet announced its findings and final decision about the probe it conducted on the said incident, which Doc Manolo "Clean Living" Iñigo said "blackeyed" the local racing industry.

***

A childhood friend of mine, Robert "Betong" Jeremias of Balic-Balic, Sampaloc, Manila, has just returned from the US and told me to check out the movie "Seabiscuit," the 1938 Horse of the Year who overcame a phenomenal run of bad fortune to become one of the most spectacular performers in sports history.

I've been fascinated by the story of this horse ever since I read parts of Laura Hillenbrand's novel "Seabiscuit—An American Legend" so I promised Betong I'll be among the early birds when it opens here this Wednesday.

And since my Silip Boy is a big fan of Tobey Maguire (he plays jockey Red Pollard in the movie and I heard his acting here is indeed *pang* Oscars), I might just bring him along, be it at the Megamall or the Powerplant.

***

E-mail One Winner at evillanueva@inquirer.com.ph or edongvilla@yahoo.com

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. Playing Cool 2. Aspire 3. Sweet Paula
Race 2—1. Petro Dollar 2. As For Me 3. King Asa 4. Formidable Ella
Race 3—1. Arrivederci 2. Green Buck 3. E-Mail
Race 4—1. D'Collector 2. House of Riches 3. Yokozuna 4. Cool Tights 5. Mika's Special
Race 5—1. Tawagin Mo Na 2. Mystika 3. Medal's Slew 4. Mighty Dragon 5. Wing Away
Race 6—1. Burning Light 2. Maria Makiling 3. Bogart 4. Going Free 5. Royal Lantana
Race 7—1. Montpellier 2. Vice Free 3. Kantayok 4. D'Greatest 5. Peek A Boo
Race 8—1. War Hero 2. Speed Machine 3. Moneyline 4. King Rick
Race 9—1. Celebration 2. Andee's Ace 3. Silver Dollar 4. War Epic 5. Snake Snake Snake
Race 10—1. Neat Laurel 2. Material Maker 3. Dandansoy
Race 11—1. Golden Lance 2. Profit Master 3. Court General/Pride of Mandaue 4. Perfect Gift 5. Speed Battle
Race 12—1. Gentleman's Lady 2. Sir Olizon 3. Santa Fe 4. Hummingbird
Race 13—1. Sovereignty 2. Fair Go 3. Tervalac 4. Run Like D Wind 5. Party Goer 6. Little Sam

Justine, Kim gain s'finals

FILDERSTADT, Germany—Justine Henin-Hardenne and Kim Clijsters moved closer to a showdown for the top ranking Friday after both got through hard matches to reach the Porsche Grand Prix semifinals.

Clijsters raised her game on the key points to down France's Amelie Mauresmo, 6-4, 6-3, while Henin-Hardenne seized on Elena Dementieva's double faults to beat the Russian, 7-5, 6-0, at the event, which started with 17 of the world's Top 19.

If the second-ranked Henin-Hardenne reaches Sunday's final, then Clijsters will also have to gain it or lose her top ranking. If both do, then the winner of their showdown is the No. 1.

In her semifinal, Henin-Hardenne faces Russian Elena Bovina, who upset third-seeded Lindsay Davenport, 6-3, 6-2. Clijsters will play France's Mary Pierce, a 7-5, 7-6 (6) winner over Bulgarian Magdalena Maleeva.

Meanwhile, in Vienna, Austria, Wimbledon champion Roger Federer beat Jarkko Nieminen, 6-3, 6-3, Friday to reach the semifinals of the CA Trophy.

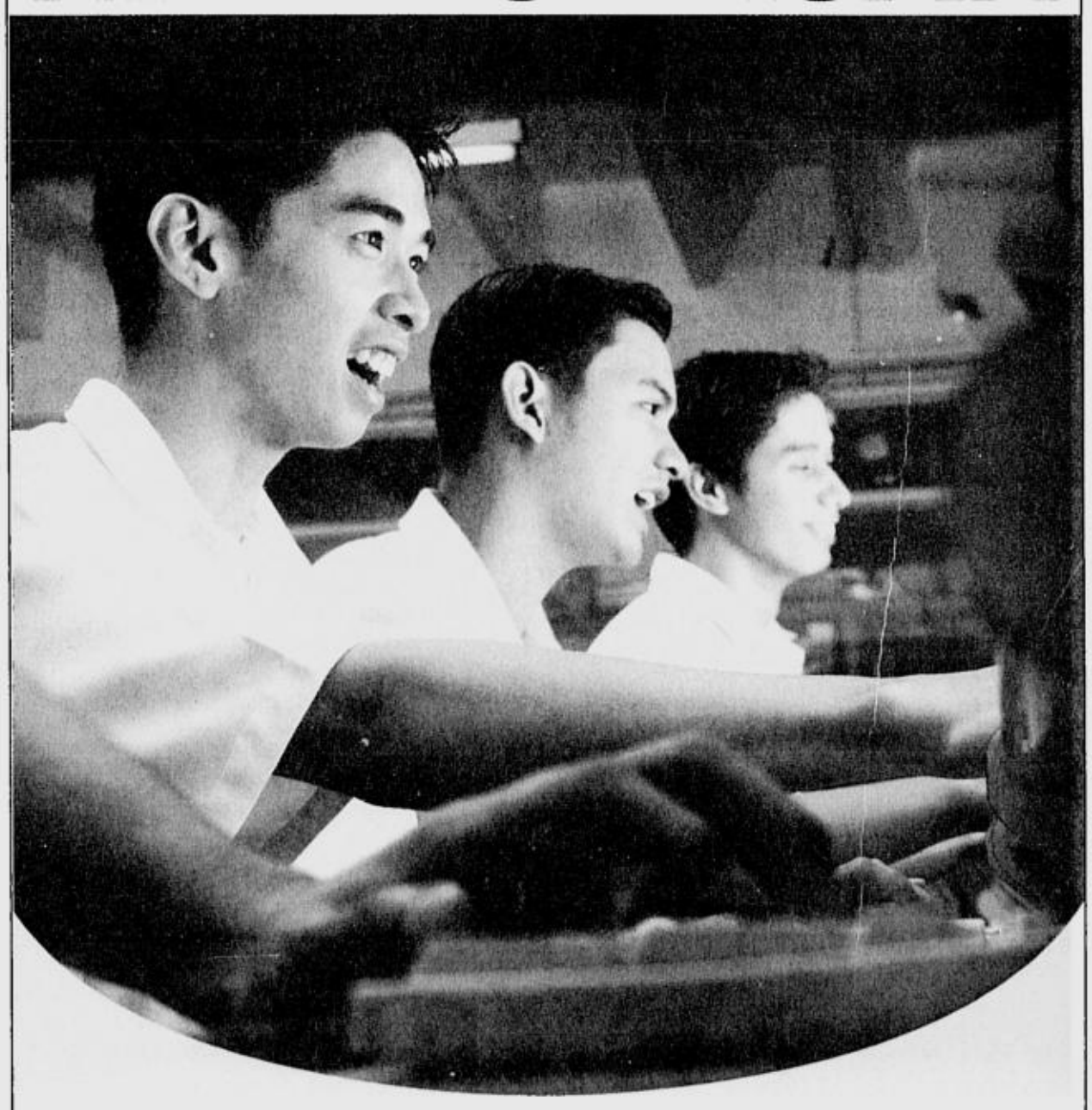
In the other semifinal, Carlos Moya meets 2000 champion Tim Henman.

Chessfest Oct. 25

THE EIGHTH leg of the 2003 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express or PEACE 2003 gets under way at 1 p.m. on Oct. 25 at the LandBank Plaza in Malate, Manila.

For more information about the event, contact the ACCA at 892-8759.

LABAN PARA SA KINABUKASAN



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3 GIGLI 10:20, 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
4 HOW TO DEAL 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00
5 UNDERWORLD 11:00, 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:50
6 ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO 10:20, 12:35, 2:55, 5:15, 7:35, 9:55
7 AMERICAN PSYCHO 10:50, 12:50, 2:50, 4:50, 7:00, 9:00
8 FINDING NEMO
9 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA 11:30, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:00
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3 TREK - 10:20, 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:10, 10:00
4 AMERICAN PSYCHO - 11:05, 12:55, 2:45, 4:35, 6:25, 8:15, 10:00
5 KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA - 11:10, 1:45, 4:20, 6:55, 9:40
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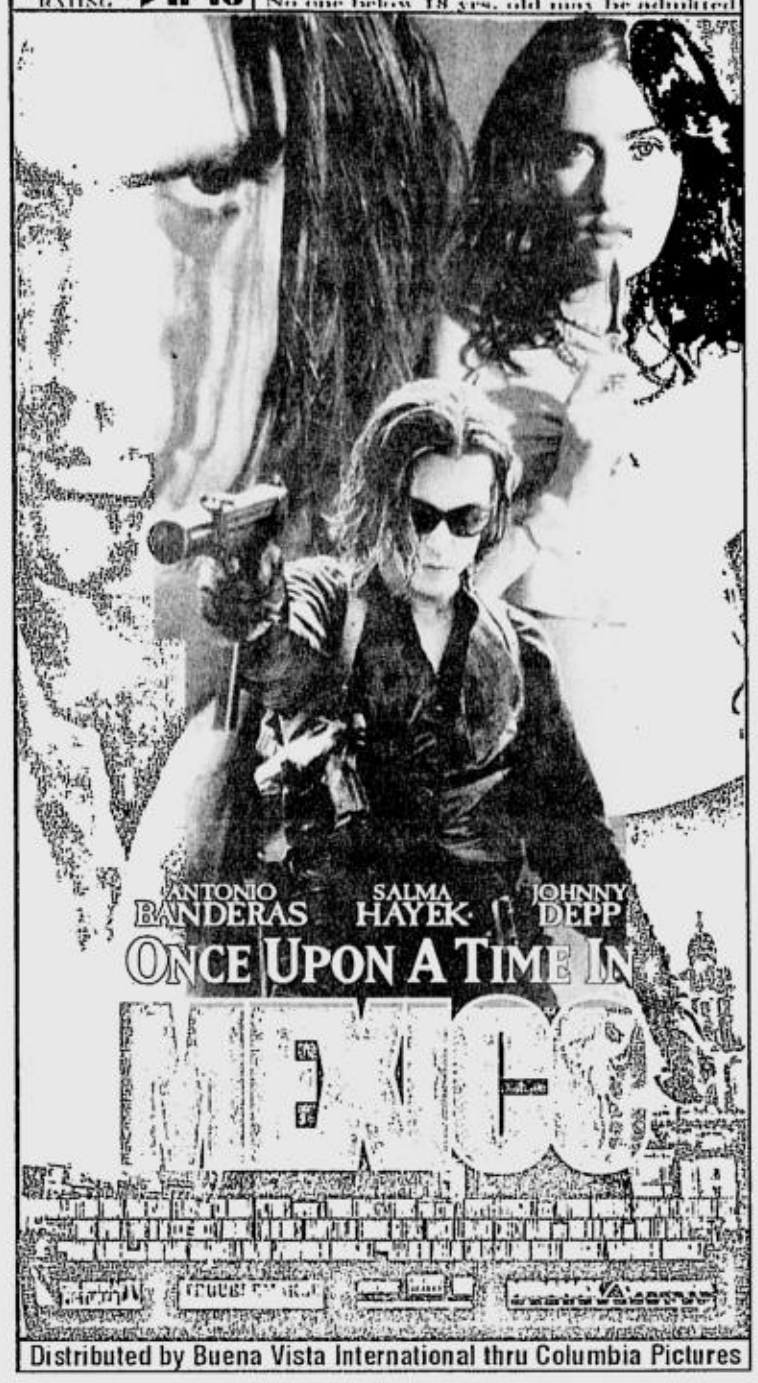

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HOW TO DEAL
KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA
THX GUARANTEED SEATS UNDERWORLD 1:10 3:40 6:10 8:40 11:10
THE MAGDALENE SISTERS
CITY OF GOD
AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

GB1 GREENBELT 1
Art Talk AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
THE MAGDALENE SISTERS 1:30 3:30 5:30 7:30 9:30
LANI MISALUCHA Oct. 10 & 11, 9PM

GB3 GREENBELT 3
THX GUARANTEED SEATS 1 UNDERWORLD 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30 12:00
THX GUARANTEED SEATS AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00 12:00
GUARANTEED SEATS 3 HOW TO DEAL 2:45 4:45 6:45 8:45 10:45
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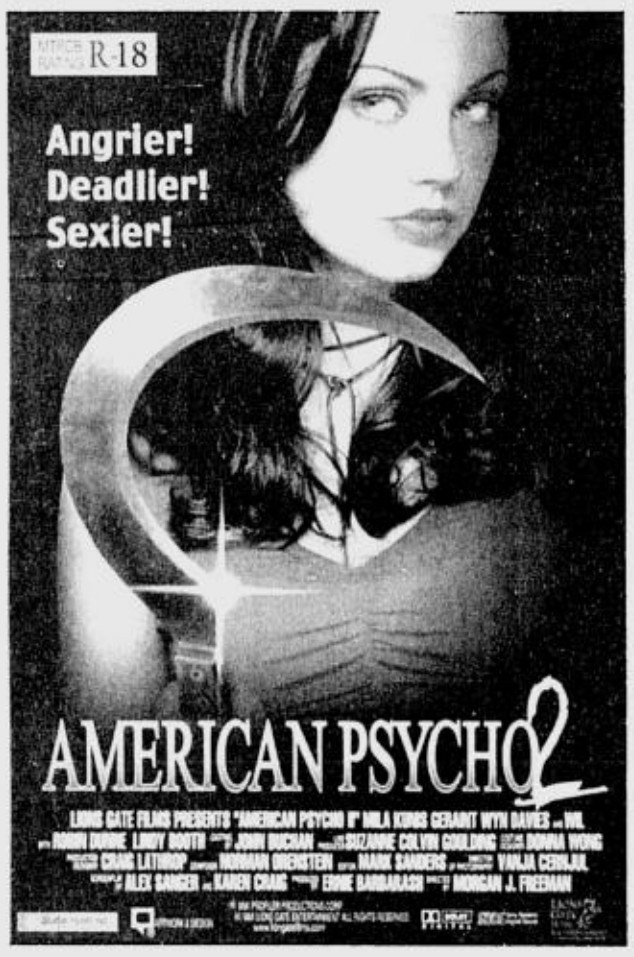

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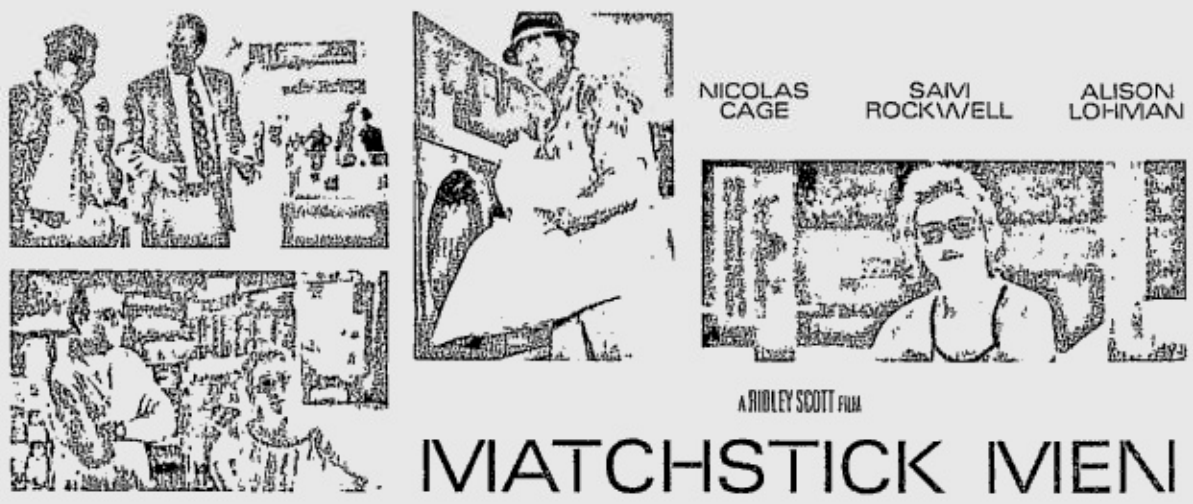

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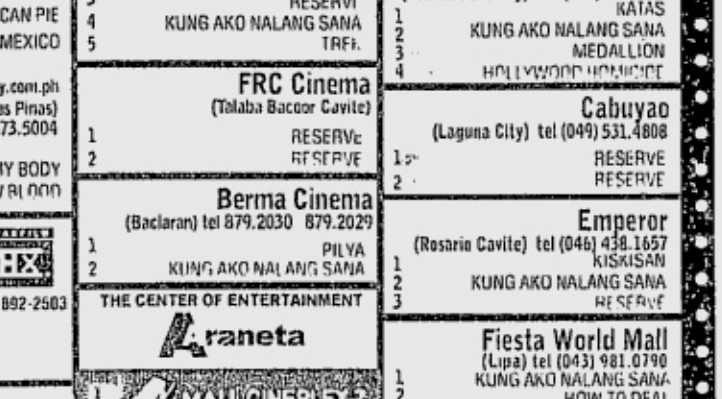

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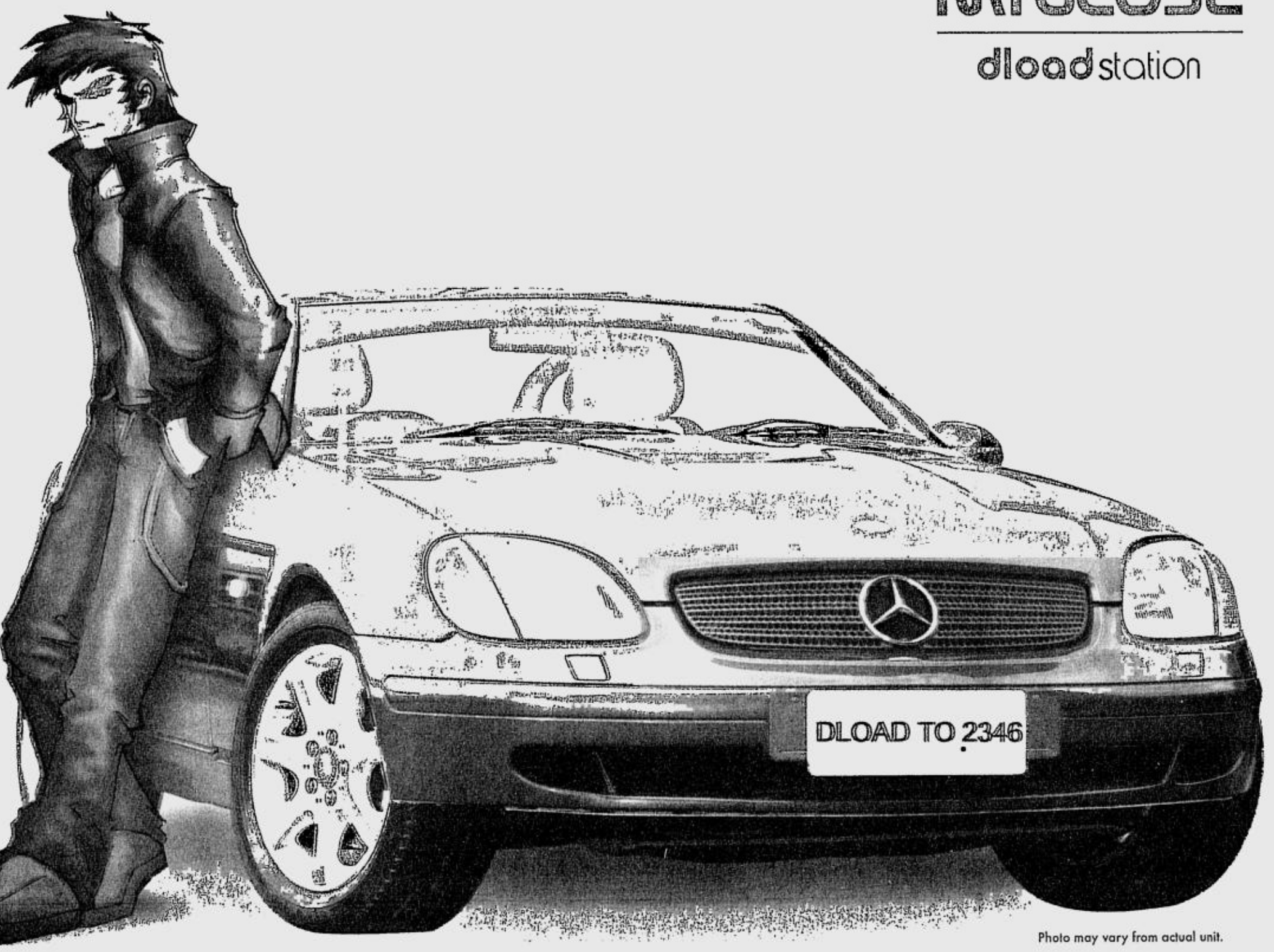

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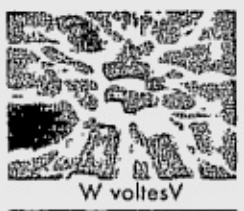
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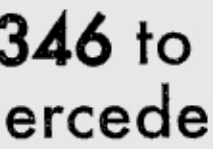
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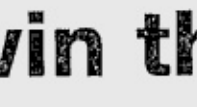
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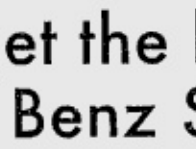
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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

VISA All it takes.

'Real estate must never be sold like salami'

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

AYALA Land Inc. president Francisco Licuanan has witnessed many leadership changes in his two and a half decades with the Ayala conglomerate.

One very influential figure for him was Col. Joseph McMicking, the person credited for laying the foundation for the development of the Makati central business district.

It was McMicking who said that real estate must never be sold like salami.

He said that "it ususally represents a huge investment in time and effort, and it sells slowly."

He added that once sold, "it doesn't disappear. It has an effect on the rest of the land around it; whether it's yours still to sell or somebody else's."

McMicking was the same man who, at 80, walked into Licuanan's office and asked him: "Licuanan, what is Ayala going to be like 50 years from now? Why not buy Mactan, or move to Clark or Palawan?"

That kind of long-term thinking is perhaps one, if not the main, reason why the Ayala conglomerate.has continued to grow through the generations of Zobels.

Harvard business theory points that once an enterprise is successfully ran by the third generation, it is likely to stay on for a long time. Ayala started in 1834.

When it comes to real estate, Licuanan says the company's stance is "everything you do will contribute or detract from the next thing you will do."

Long-term relations

"Our relationship with our customers is for the long-term. Long-term players are not built in a day. If the relationship is long-term, you will see him again and you want to be able to look him straight in the eye," he says.

ALI celebrates its 15th year this year. Despite the Asian financial crisis, which was led to the collapse of many real estate firms, ALI survived.

The key, according to Licuanan, is not to finish your relationship with the customer once he has paid you.

He cites that in 1984, Ayala lost P10 million because it had to pump water to supply the plush Ayala Alabang Village.

But he said they had no choice, it is a service that needed to be provided.

"Anybody can push dirt but giving the assurance that they will get what you promised, and that the development of the place will stay as good, cannot be done by all," he says.

Sometimes, he says, the interpretation of this goes a little overboard.

He cites for example that the last lot they sold in Magallanes Village in Makati was in 1968 but until now they would get calls when the place gets flooded.

Varied leaders

The top man at ALI has also seen many leadership styles during his long stint in the Ayala group.

He recalls the centralized way of running things under ENZO or Enrique Zobel where most, if not all, major decisions were made by him. He had the final say on projects.

The Ayala subsidiaries then were also run similarly by their respective heads.

When Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala was made head after their aunt, Dona Mercedes (wife of McMicking) was displeased with Enzo, the management style became totally different.

"Don Jaime is not a classical executive. But he has good instincts regarding people. He has a good read of whom to trust. He believed in people and was non-confrontational," Licuanan describes.

Observers note that different management styles match the different companies under the Ayala group.

Banking employees say, for instance, that the Bank of the Philippine Islands is still quite a centralized organization unlike the holding company.

Licuanan admits that the image projected by the Ayala group is that it is somewhat bureaucratic, but he says the image does not fit the reality.

"We would sometimes buy a piece of property and Jaza (Ayala chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala) or Fernando (Zobel de Ayala, chair of ALI) would not even know our purchase price," he says.

"The current management, started by Don Jaime, gives people quite a lot of scope. But they hold you accountable for your decisions," he points out.

And unlike many family-run companies, the Ayala group keeps family presence in the firms at a minimum.

"There are not a lot of little Zobels running around. You do not have to worry about one of the nephews getting your job,"Licuanan says.

Licuanan says it is ironic that executives are sometimes more concerned about the net income than the Zobels.

"We protect the P and L (profit and loss) more than the owners," he laughs, citing the construction of the Glorietta mall.

"I did not want it closed but Miriam Ramos (an ALI exec) and Fernando wanted a dome. That is expensive. So we had to haggle back and forth about the height of the enclosure. I wanted it lower of course. They wanted it higher. It turns out they were right. The Glorietta Activity Center became a revenue generating center."

Licuanan says that in the Ayala group, credit is given where it is due.

He credits Miriam and Fernando for going after the park design of Greenbelt. It allotted a lot of space for gardens and fountain areas which could actually have generated more income if made into shops or restaurants. But in the end, the concept worked.

Licuanan started out his career in big firms He was an assistant brand manager at Procter & Gamble from May 1964 to July 1965.

After finishing his MBA at Harvard he joined Citibank as summer trainee at the head office in New York. When he came back to Manila, he joined Philippine Airlines, then four other firms including the Bancom Group Inc.

Somehow, after he joined the Ayala Corp. in 1979, he never left. His only conclusion is he found his family in the group.

FRANCISCO Licuanan III (left) after receiving the Harvard Alumni Scholarship award from the Harvard Graduate School of Business in 1965. He won over 500 applicants. Beside him is his father, Francisco II.

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MANDALUYONG	
ARX Computer Center - Shangrila Edsa	6350068 to 69
PC Corner - Shaw Blvd.	5355231
PC Corner - SM Megamall	6318786
Complink Marketing - Shangrila Edsa	6374444
Complink Marketing - SM Megamall	6373988
Villman - SM Megamall	6830532 to 33
LAS PIÑAS	
PC Corner - Zapote	7724641
PC Corner - SM South Mall	7223416
E.F. Hands-On Computer - Pamplonas	8738866
Complink Marketing - SM Southmall	8019908
PARAÑAQUE	
ARX Computer Center - SM Super Center	8208694
Complink Marketing - Citimall	5129708
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CAVITE	
Complink Marketing - SM Cavite	(046) 4177761 to 63
AlphaStike Computer Center - Dasmariñas	
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Matcom Trading Company - Rosario	(046) 4380652
LAGUNA	
Tomtronics - San Pedro	(049) 8086996
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BICOL	
RCA Computer Sales and Services - Naga	(054) 8118483
PAMPANGA	
PCDG - Angeles City	(045) 8885614
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PCDG - Dagupan	(075) 5152880
Maya Emporium - Dagupan	(075) 5157969
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PC4Me Computer Shop - San Fernando	(072) 8882249
BAGUIO	
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Laser Marketing - Mabini	(074) 4425854
Laser Marketing - Central Mall	(074) 4449810
CEBU	
Compumasters - Cebu City	(032) 4120955 to 59
NG KHAI Development Corporation - Mandaue	(032) 3462926
NG KHAI Development Corporation - Ayala Center	(032) 2325355
Andersons PC - Osmeña	(032) 2541430
CBX - Cebu City	(032) 2530602
CBX - Cebu City	(032) 2314369
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Jegabytes Computer Center - Libertad-Margarita Ext.	(034) 4337763
Jegabytes Computer Center - Robinson's Place	(034) 4412880
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Electroworld Iloilo - SM City	(033) 3204832 telefax
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Electroworld Davao - SM City	(082) 2210119 telefax
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PLDT convergence @ home

Helping young workers build a better Mindanao

By Amy R. Remo

THINK Mindanao and most of us imagine a conflict-ridden region. In particular, Abu Sayyaf members kidnapping people and the government waging a war against them resulting in huge losses of lives and properties.

Once dubbed as the "Land of Promise," Mindanao now has a notorious reputation of a war-torn area. Needless to say, investments plunged. The economic difficulties created a vicious cycle that pushed some of its people to join the rebels.

A study commissioned by Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) and conducted by Garilao and Associates, shows Mindanao having the worst poverty situation among the three major islands of the Philippines.

Some 31 percent or 1.4 million of the country's poor families live in Mindanao, mostly in rural areas. Mindanao has the highest poverty incidence at 44.43 compared to Luzon's 24.56 and Visayas' 38.84.

In all the provinces in Mindanao, ARMM registered the highest poverty incidence at 62.9, with more than half of its total population living below the poverty line. The government defines the poverty line as annual income of P58,000 a year for a family of five or a monthly income of P4,000.

Lack of socio-economic development in Mindanao has kept the people in poverty. This is the result of a combination of sluggish economic performance, low level of human capital formation and unstable peace and order.

In response, PBSP, an association of companies practicing corporate social responsibility, has come up with the Mindanao Peace and Development Program.

One of the programs under this is the Business and Peace Program, a three-year initiative implemented in partnership with the Prince of Wales International Business Leaders' Forum, supported by the British Embassy Manila and the British Chamber of Commerce in the Philippines.

This program is aimed at poverty alleviation and improvement of the Mindanaoans' lives. At the core of these efforts is the leadership and participation of the business sector.

PBSP believes that companies play a significant role in "promoting and sustaining peace by creating economic equity for local people and adopting business practices that support peace and development."

Yuppeace

An essential component of this program is the Yuppeace (Young Muslim Professionals for Business and Peace).

Started in October 2001, Yuppeace provides internship opportunities for young and currently employed Muslim professionals to gain practical working experience in Manila-based companies.

There are currently six interns. Three recently finished their six-month internship with HSBC, three are still with Unilever Philippines. Although already in its second year, Yuppeace plans to get six more interns and extend the three-year program.

In their six-month stay with the host companies, interns are expected to learn new knowledge, skills and processes and replicate these in their respective companies back in Mindanao.

(FROM left) Faiza Lao, Samirah Mala and Bai Junieka Paulino are currently under the Yuppeace internship at Unilever.

With the help of various companies who are willing to take an intern and teach him or her the ropes, PBSP hopes that these interns would be able to improve business management practices in select SMEs in Mindanao.

According to PBSP, this is how one can create "peace dividends"—by creating businesses, building partnerships and generating employment, which would gradually encourage people from Mindanao to veer away from the rebel life.

Acting as ambassadors of the South, these interns also intend to show that Mindanao is a highly untapped region, where a lot of businesses could thrive if given a chance.

Bai Juneika Paulino, an intern at the Corporate Development department of Unilever, says in an interview that not all the provinces in Mindanao are as war-torn and chaotic as depicted in television and newspapers.

Paulino is one of the witnesses to how creating peace dividends pays off and businesses can indeed help promote peace. A success story is that of the Paglas Corporation in Maguindanao, ARMM, where Paulino is a supervisor.

Datu Paglas in Maguindanao was once considered as the "lawless Muslim Mindanao," with most of its inhabitants being sympathizers or members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

When Datu Ibrahim "Toto" Paglas III took over in 1988, he was determined to change the course of his town's history. Paglas committed substantial family lands and persuaded a group of neighboring landowners to develop a 1,300-hectare banana plantation.

In 1997, La Frutera Inc. was established. It is the only foreign investment in ARMM, which currently exports top quality bananas to the Middle East, Japan, Iran, China, Korea and Hong Kong under the brands Chiquita and Unifrutti. It generates an annual revenue of $10 to $15 million.

In the same year, Toto Paglas then set up Paglas Corporation to provide sub-contractual labor, security and transportation in the plantation.

Since then, the town has seen an increase in employment and income levels and a decrease in violence.

To date, 20 percent of Paglas Corp. and La Frutera's employees are Christians, while 80 percent are Muslims, most of whom were former MILF combatants and battalion commanders. These people had dropped their weapons in exchange for a job and a more secure future. The managers and technical consultants of Paglas-Corp. are Jews.

This is exactly what Yuppeace aims to achieve with the help of various companies.

Unilever, one of the host companies, saw Yuppeace as a venue for them to help improve the peace and economic condition in Mindanao.

"The business community should be aware that it has a responsibility to do what it can to help out in Mindanao not just for business purposes, but that it should be driven by the desire to be an example to other companies," says Howard Belton, CEO and president of Unilever Philippines.

Belton adds that consumers now want products from companies who are socially responsible.

"We've been in the Philippines 75 years already and we want to stay 75 more years. That's why we are investing in projects that produce long-term developments such as Yuppeace," says Belton.

In the Unilever internship, interns are encouraged to participate in ongoing projects and come up with new ideas. The experience would be valuable since this will give the interns a fresh outlook on how businesses are run.

Being immersed in the actual operations in Unilever, according to Belton, is one of the best ways to learn. This equips interns with management skills to spur entrepreneurship in their respective provinces.

Aside from technical training, this internship could provide opportunities for confidence-building.

Through Yuppeace, PBSP hopes to revive Mindanao through development technology, which is founded on the premise that development is all about helping people help themselves.

By encouraging people in Mindanao to spearhead changes thru this internship, there may be hope to see a better Mindanao in the near future.

Bugkalot tribesmen find livelihood in citrus farming

Entrepreneur
PHILIPPINES
and
JOHNNIE WALKER
salute
10 Outstanding Filipino Entrepreneurs
What makes a successful entrepreneur? We tell you exactly what next month when we feature the winners of "Entrepreneur 10," Entrepreneur magazine's first-ever search for outstanding Filipino entrepreneurs. Launched last April, this search is co-presented by Johnnie Walker.
The search focused on more than 50 small and medium enterprises who had shown exemplary performance for at least three years. Headed by Satori Consultancy and SGV&Co, the screening committee focused on each nominee's economic performance, market sustainability, employment standards, and social responsibility.
As a further reward, search co-presenter Johnnie Walker will give out a special award to one of the winners that it feels best personifies Johnnie Walker's brand ideals of inspiring personal progress.
Find out who these 10 outstanding entrepreneurs are in the November 2003 edition of Entrepreneur Philippines.
Satori
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A BUGKALOT tribesman (right) proudly shows his oranges to a technician of the Bureau of Plant Industry
PHOTO BY ANSELMO ROQUE

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

DUPAX DEL SUR, Nueva Vizcaya—Five years after their march to a "new world," the Bugkalots at the foot of the Caraballo and Sierra Madre Mountains are set to harvest the fruits of their venture into high value crops production.

By June next year, they will start the commercial harvest of assorted citrus varieties like sweet navel, ponkan and Satzuma Mandarins, and Davao and Red Chandler pomelos.

"We are optimistic that the Bugkalot families engaged in this orchard venture would harvest at least 1.7 million kilograms of fruit," says Eugene Estacio, community relations staff of CalEnergy International, the operator of the multi-billion-peso Casecnan Multipurpose Irrigation and Power Project (CMIPP).

CalEnergy International, in partnership with the government, operates CMIPP on a build-operate-transfer scheme.

During the project's construction, the firm launched social measures projects, along with government and non-government organizations, for the members of the Bugkalot tribe living in the five villages that would be covered by the project.

CalEnergy selected the citrus growing project as its flagship livelihood program for at least 300 members of the tribe.

Collectively called the Casecnan Citrus Plantation, some 90 hectares of sloping farmlands were planted to different kinds of citrus trees in 1998. A total of 46,778 trees flourished and last year, some of these trees already bore fruits.

The grafted seedlings of the oranges and pomelos used rootstocks imported from two big companies in California in the United States. The scions of trees grafted on the rootstocks were from the mother plants from growers in the Malabing Valley area in Nueva Vizcaya and from the nursery of the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) in Baguio City.

CalEnergy gave the seedlings to the Bugkalot families involved in the project.

As the Bugkalots had no knowledge of citrus growing, the firm provided them technical assistance. Fertilizers and pesticides were also supplied to ensure success in the tribal members' first venture in this kind of enterprise.

Former headhunters

News about the success of the Casecnan Citrus Plantation inspired others considering that the participants are members of a tribe known for being headhunters.

The Bugkalots were formerly known as Ilongot, a headhunting tribe whose members were scattered in the mountain areas in Nueva Vizcaya, Aurora and Quirino.

In recent years, most of the Bugkalots were converted to Christianity due to the efforts of missionaries who risked living with the tribesmen in their communities. With this change they hoped to also have a changed life particularly in terms of economic development.

But that did not happen at once.

For years, before the Bugkalots in this area could reach the nearest town, which is Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, they had to hike through a mountain trail for at least a day.

They subsisted by taking advantage of what little their environment could offer like products from the depleted forest and some wild animals. Rice harvested from small patches of farmlands could only last for two months. They used root crops as substitute for rice.

Salt was treated as "gold," an important commodity. And since assistance from the government was almost nil, the tribesmen had considered themselves as "God's forgotten people."

BUGKALOT/ B

Looking back at generations of leaders

EÑING Sr.

FOR three generations of the Lopez family, running a business that reaches the homes of millions of Filipinos, both here and abroad, has been and will always be anchored on one single mission: public service.

"Public service is good business," said Eugenio "Geny" Lopez Jr., son ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., founder Don Eugenio "Eñing" Lopez Sr., who started the country's first commercial television station in 1956. "My father taught us to look at all our businesses as a means to render public service. This explains why we have elected to remain in the sometimes controversial arenas of mass media and public utilities."

One man's vision

Although known as the father of the country's largest network, Eñing began as a sugar planter. Together with his brother Fernando, he took over the family hacienda, which prospered under his supervision.

After a rewarding stint in the farming industry, Eñing soon turned his attention to unexplored territory. His guiding vision was clear: transportation, communication and commerce were one, and would prove successful when integrated. Among his first moves was the revival of the newspaper El Tiempo, as well as the establishment of the Iloilo Times.

He then ventured into public utilities and built a transportation empire in Iloilo. It is said that the double-decker buses that rule Hong-Kong roads had their Asian debut in Manila, through Eñing's efforts.

After Liberation, when his brother Fernando ventured into public service as mayor of Iloilo, it fell to Eñing to take over the family business. He acquired The Manila Chronicle, the first postwar newspaper in the country. Not content with the progress he was making with the paper, Eñing branched out into other forms of media, strengthening his position in different industries.

"My father was a very impatient man, one who didn't let the grass grow under his feet," Geny once said of his father. Indeed, Eñing Lopez thrived on the challenge of greater achievement.

The establishment of Chronicle Broadcasting Network and the purchase of he Alto Broadcasting System would soon bolster the Lopez presence in media. While there was a nine-year gap between his acquisition of the newspaper and his entry into radio, Eñing's jump from newspaper publisher to owner of a radio-television network took only a year.

By 1968, the consolidated company was officially known as ABS-CBN. In the years that followed, Eñing plowed on, making his mark as an industrial maverick. He demanded nothing less than the loyalty and diligence of his employees, which he rewarded generously. For the *haciendero* turned tycoon, ABS-CBN was a second family.

After his father passed away, Geny took

LOOKING/ B5

Bugkalot . . .

From page B2

When the CMIPP was started in December 1996, the welfare of the Bugkalots was one of the first things the project proponents considered.

The project diverts the flows of water from the Casecnan and Taan rivers in Nueva Vizcaya to the Pantabangan Dam reservoir in Nueva Ecija for additional irrigation water supply. The villages of Pelaway, Kawayan and Lipuga in Alfonso Castañeda town and the villages of Talbec and Abaca in this town were identified as impact zones of the project. These villages, though, are not direct beneficiaries of the CMIPP.

Some 70 km of access road were built in the impact zone of the project. The access road connects to the town of Carranglan and can now be reached in less than two hours from here.

Many of the Bugkalots, through the assistance of CalEnergy, were brought to the Central Luzon State University in the Science City of Munoz to train in leadership, cooperatives and various types of livelihood activities. Due to this development, a "whole new world" was opened to the Bugkalots.

"Many things have changed here through this citrus farming project," said Rudy Caanawan, a tribal chieftain of Abaca. He said most of the Bugkalot families have settled in one area to maintain their orchard.

Officials of CalEnergy said that in due time, many Bugkalot families could expect an income of P150,000 yearly from their citrus harvest. They said that production increases as the citrus trees grow old.

Nursery

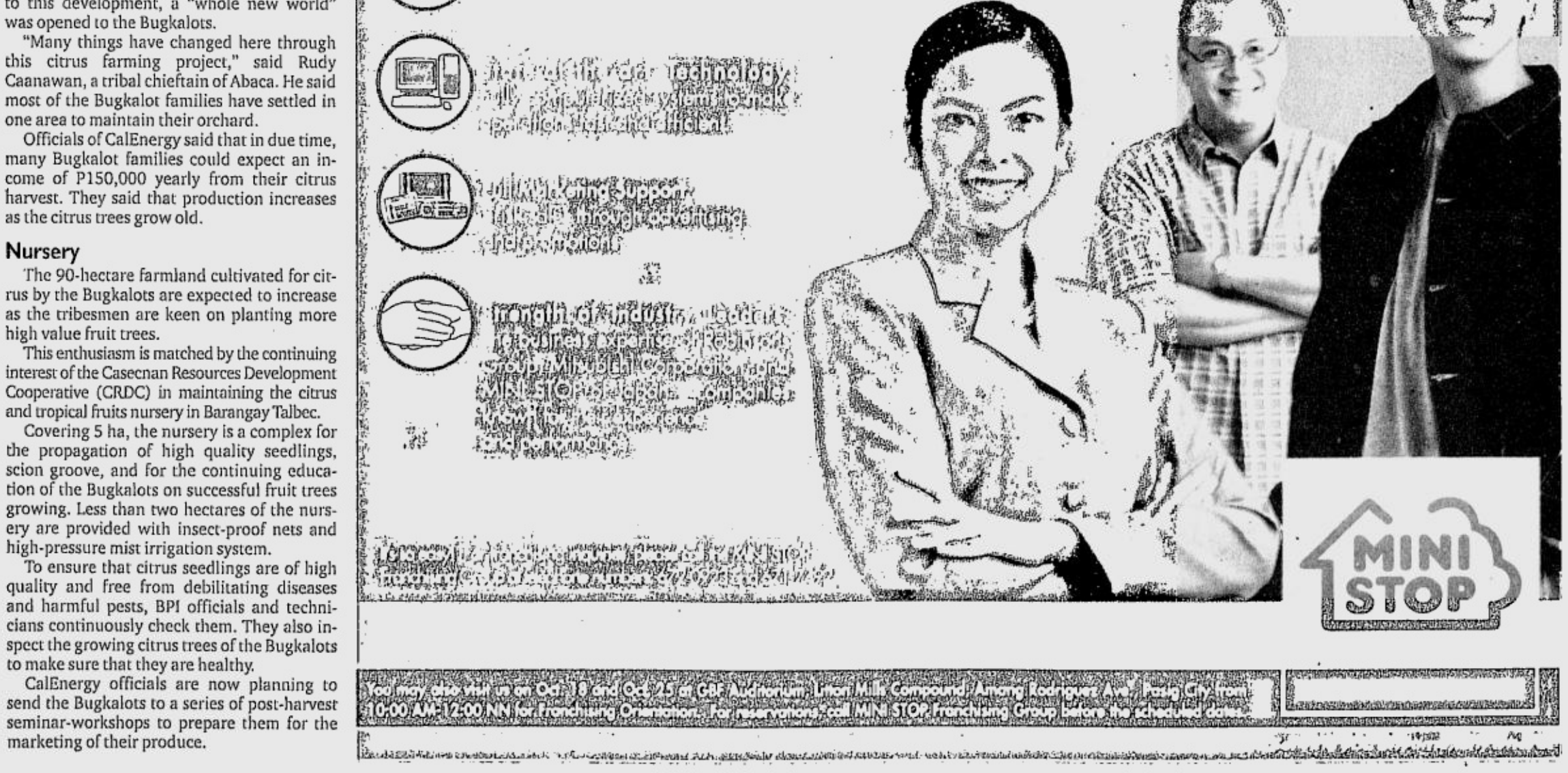
The 90-hectare farmland cultivated for citrus by the Bugkalots are expected to increase as the tribesmen are keen on planting more high value fruit trees.

This enthusiasm is matched by the continuing interest of the Casecnan Resources Development Cooperative (CRDC) in maintaining the citrus and tropical fruits nursery in Barangay Talbec.

Covering 5 ha, the nursery is a complex for the propagation of high quality seedlings, scion groove, and for the continuing education of the Bugkalots on successful fruit trees growing. Less than two hectares of the nursery are provided with insect-proof nets and high-pressure mist irrigation system.

To ensure that citrus seedlings are of high quality and free from debilitating diseases and harmful pests, BPI officials and technicians continuously check them. They also inspect the growing citrus trees of the Bugkalots to make sure that they are healthy.

CalEnergy officials are now planning to send the Bugkalots to a series of post-harvest seminar-workshops to prepare them for the marketing of their produce.



WILL GMA EAT TOO?

Panciteria serving RP presidents since 1938

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

ON the ground floor of the Smart Panciteria along E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave., Libis, Quezon City is a large mural that shows all the Philippine presidents, from Jose Laurel to Diosdado Macapagal to Joseph Estrada, that have enjoyed the Chinese cuisine introduced by Smart founder Leoy Sang in 1938.

It also shows the members of Leoy's family including granddaughter Nancy, perched on the shoulders of Smart Panciteria's first chief cook who was brought in from Hong Kong to bring unique home-cooked dishes to the Philippines.

PINOY ENTREPRENEUR

Nancy tells the INQUIRER that she has always been close to the waiters, the Hong Kong cooks and the kitchen staff of Smart Panciteria that was first set up in Tomas Pinpin corner Nieva Streets in the Binondo district.

It is no surprise then that Nancy would succeed in the running of Smart Panciteria after her father Leoy Kwok Yan, who took over the reins of the business after the founder's death in 1995.

"My grandfather was a great cook and my earliest memories were of sitting at the kitchen counter and watching the cooks as they went about their business," Nancy says.

She relates that as a toddler, the restaurant's cooks put her inside a water pail that was placed on top of a table so that she wouldn't be a nuisance to the cooks who hurriedly and painstakingly prepared Smart's signature dishes.

"It was always understood that once I grew up, I would join the business. *Talagang hilig ko*," Nancy says.

Smart Panciteria in Binondo was always filled with people who came in droves to enjoy Smart Chicken, Fried Frog Legs, Eight Treasure Soup, Kang Kong Lechon, Lettuce with Minced meat, Soup No. 5, Ham Duck Rice and a concoction called the "Bomba soup," made of broth and crackling rice.

Philippine presidents shared tables with ordinary folk because the prices were very affordable, as dictated by Smart's founder.

Service was fast and quality of the food was maintained, which was the main factor behind the enduring popularity of the restaurant through the decades, while others have come and gone.

Smart Panciteria is even a favorite ve[illegible]or movie shoots of Fernando[illegible] Jr., and a usual watering hole of politicians such as Raul Roco and Luis "Chavit" Singson.

When the restaurant was moved from Binondo to Libis and Nancy took over the reins of management, she says the greatest challenge was to remain true to the taste of the signature dishes that the old customers have grown accustomed to.

"It would make me feel bad if someone would come up to me and say that the dish does not taste the same. We don't want that to happen," she says.

Nancy added that it is also her wish to widen the market and introduce Smart's dishes to a new generation of Chinese food lovers.

"I consider myself very lucky because the Hong Kong cooks were willing to share their culinary secrets with me, probably because they knew that I loved the business. That's why I know the taste by heart and I know that the dishes we serve today taste the same as the dishes served during my grandfather's time," she said.

One of the few changes is the installation of air conditioning units at the new Smart Panciteria, whereas the old Binondo restaurant only had large ceiling fans to help cool the place.

NANCY carried by mother Tessie, with (from left) Grandmother Yang Yaw Yan, father Leoy Kwok Yan and grandfather Leoy Sang, founder of Smart.

Keeping the quality of the food to her grandfather's standards takes a lot of work and Nancy spends most of her time in the kitchen to make sure that the food is prepared and cooked right, while her sister Carolyn helps take care of the operations.

"I really have to be a hands-on manager, I am there early and I leave late. It is not an easy business but I love it," she says.

Nancy adds that she always keeps in mind the lessons in business that she learned from her grandfather.

"He has always said keep your eyes open and look at the customers. Make sure that you are there to help them even before they raise their hand to call you," Nancy says.

She also inherited her grandfather's discipline when it came to money matters and in believing in excellence in work. No short cuts are allowed in Smart Panciteria.

"Maybe that is one reason why I will never be rich because I believe in giving the best to the customers and at the same time make these available at so-called Binondo prices," she says.

Her grandfather likewise prized loyalty and remaining humble despite the growth of the business.

"He always told us to be humble and he led by example. The staff and the family always ate together and we ate what they ate. Even now, I eat the same meal as the employees and we provide that to them for free," she says.

This practice kept the staff loyal and Nancy proudly says that the children and grandchildren of some of the first staff to work for her grandfather have stayed with her.

She said this helps preserve the family's old recipes, since the old hands in the kitchen have remained to do the cooking.

Nancy, however, says that she would not stop at serving the old dishes that have made Smart a favorite place for families all these years.

There are plans to introduce new dishes to cater to the new generation of eaters, including perhaps, President Macapagal-Arroyo, but she stresses that these would not be far off from the kind of Chinese food that Smart has always been famous for—simple, delicious and affordable.

Metrobank turns 41; fetes teachers

SEPTEMBER 5 is always a happy day in Metrobank.On this day the bank turns a year older.

This year the bank celebrated its 41st birthday with the awarding ceremonies for the Outstanding Teachers, the annual donation turnover rites and services awards.

Friends, valued clients and specials guests were one with Metrobank in honoring the country's exemplary educators and in supporting the various charitable institutions and social civic groups.

During the donation turnover rites, valued clients helped confer grants worth P10 million to 29 beneficiaries. First daughter and guest of honor Luli Arroyo assisted Metrobank chair George S.K Ty, Metrobank Foundation presidetn Placido L. Mapa and bank president Antonio S.Abacan Jr. in presenting the grants.

ASIA Recovery Inc. president Pete Jaminola and Metrobank president Antonio S. Abacan.

MARY V. Ty with Mr and Ms Lauro Baja.

Former President Corazon Aquino joined Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Education Secretary Edilberto C. de Jesus, chair and co-co chair respectively of the final board of judges and CHED Commissioner Manuel Punzal in honoring the outstanding teachers.

CONG. Jesli Lapu with Apuy Go and Peachy Go.

ROBERT Yama nd Printewell Inc. chair Joseph Yam

METROBANK VP Jaz Bunag, Phi. AXA Life president Vic Quisumbing, Marilyn Yao, AXA EVP Mon Fernandez, Johnny de la Torre and AXA EVP Beverly Serrano.

Airlines expands to new office

KOREAN national carrier Asiana Airlines (OZ) has moved to a new office to accommodate growing passenger and cargo operations. The multi-awarded airline has won international awards for Best Passenger Service and is recognized as the 13th largest cargo airline operator in the world.

Recognizing the skills and competence of Asiana Philippines, the airline has also shifted some its revenue accounting operations from its headquarters in Seoul to the new Makati office. The airline will soon introduce a new service from Clark Field, Pampanga, to Seoul flying twice weekly.

Associates and partners in the travel industry as well as members of the diplomatic community gathered to celebrate the move to the new office.

Asiana Airlines is now located in the 6th floor of Salcedo Towers in HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village in Makati.

Clark Development Corp. CEO Victor Jose Luciano and Transnational Diversified Group co-chair Arthur P. Tugade

Asiana Airlines flies seven times a week from Manila to Seoul and on to 64 destinations in 15 countries. The airline is also a member of Star Alliance, the world's largest airline network.

ASIANA Airlines Regional Manager Hyun Il Kim, EVA Air Country Manager James Yu, Asiana Airlines GM-Passenger Rene Philip Banzon

Minki Bautista, Cecille So, Donna Perez and Transnational Diversified Group Chair Jose Roberto Delgado

Visualizing living graphics for 30 years

IT'S not only the play of hues, lines and curves tastefully chosen to strike the consumers' fancy nor the graceful strokes of letters that spell the names of brands in the market. It's how the elements of design are put together, allowing a product or an enterprise to come to life and reveal on its own its strengths, beauty and individuality. This is what image is all about and conceiving images that mark a legacy is what Graphic Atelier (Manila) Inc. has been specializing in for the last three decades.

Graphic Atelier provides a range of integrated marketing communication materials and extensive design services to a multitude of clients from financial services, utility, retail, entertainment, real estate, IT, industrial and manufacturing companies. Graphic Atelier is also the preferred design studio for some government agencies, private institutions and foundations. Among its clients at present are Development Bank of the Philippines, FINEX, Freego, Hermosa Ecozone Industrial Park, Highlands Prime Inc., Mirant Philippines, NicPhil Insurance Inc., Pan Pacific Hotel, PAGCOR, Papertech Inc., Petron Corporation, Philipppine Racing Club, Philcopy, SCA Hygiene, Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp., SMART Corp., and Standard Chartered Bank.

Graphic Atelier is one of the pioneers in the Philippine graphic design industry. It was founded in October 1973 by Margarita Delgado-Guingona and is now being managed by daughter, Caren Grey.

Graphic Atelier has served some of the top 1,000 corporations in the country. At the turn of the new millennium and upon the retirement of some of its major partners, Caren answered the call for "young blood" to be infused into the company.

Caren was with J. Walter Thompson as an Account Manager for three years. After JWT, she took a brief course on Multi-Media at the San Francisco State University. She then returned to the country with the goal of making Graphic Atelier more competitive in the fast changing graphic design industry. Caren worked her way to the top until she finally took over Graphic Atelier in June 2000.

MARGARITA Delgado-Guingona (left) and her daughter Caren.

Caren admitted that times have changed. From nearly monopolizing the industry 30 years ago, the graphic design business has grown in the country. But Graphic Atelier has remained competitive. Clients rely on them for their innovative concepts, determination and professionalism.

Located at Mile Long Building in Makati, Graphic Atelier renders a range of services from conceptualization to production of promotional materials such as logos, corporate brochures, annual reports, packaging labels, marketing materials and print ads. It also creates menus and collaterals for hotels and restaurants as well as seasonal communication materials like corporate calendars and Christmas cards. Other services offered are production of signages, corporate videos and websites.

"We have adapted to the times," says Caren. Graphic Atelier chose to veer away from obsolete systems which are no longer in synch with today's modernity, while keeping some of the company's "secrets for success". They continually expose themselves to new trends and media. But the winning formula, according to Caren is the perfect mix of passion, camaraderie, professionalism and sense of responsibility among her staff.

"Everybody here has to be very passionate about work. Everybody should be happy," Caren said. The feeling of always wanting to go back to work because "work is fun" is one of the reasons why the Graphic Atelier team looks forward not only to its 30th anniversary this month but to several years to come. With this in mind, expect Graphic Atelier to continue to visualize living graphics and create quality designs that are meant to last.

80-year-old uraro maker still does things by hand

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

THE PROCESS of making Uraro biscuits is done without any aid from machines. Everything is done manually.

SALVADOR and Olive Orencia.

A KEY factor for a business to succeed is quality products.

For Orencia's Special Uraro Biscuits, this has been proven true having been in the business for more than 80 years now.

Started in 1918 by Maura Almonte, Orencia's Uraro has carved a name in the Uraro biscuit-making in Liliw, Laguna.

Pioneer

Salvador Orencia, the youngest child of Maura, who now manages the business, relates that his mother was still single when she started the business. When Almonte married Servillano Orencia, the couple worked together making the business grow.

"My father used to do the kneading all by himself," Salvador relates in Filipino.

Uraro biscuits cost P2.50 for small packs and P3.50 for the bigger packs at that time.

It was in 1978 when Salvador took over the business. His mother was already old and could no longer oversee the production. Since no one among Maura's children was keen on continuing the business, Salvador took the challenge since he helped out in the factory from time to time.

He, however, admits that he, too, wasn't that interested at first but after learning the ropes of the trade, particularly the recipe of the product, he eventually learned to like the venture.

Arrowroot

Uraro biscuit's main ingredient is the flour that is produced from *uraro* or arrowroot crop, thus the name. Salvador relates that these crops were abundant in nearby towns during that time. He even shares that before, the flour takes a while to produce since the process was done the old and hard way. Illustrations of these procedures adorn the walls of the Orencia factory.

Today, however, this ingredient can be bought already in flour form, Salvador explains.

The process of making Uraro biscuits is done without any aid from machines. "Everything is done manually," Salvador relates, "from mixing the ingredients, molding them in their designed shapes to packing."

Salvador also stresses the use of *pugon* in baking the cookies. According to him, *pugon*-baked biscuits produce the best tasting products.

Molds

Molds vary in shapes and designs and can be made from wood or plastic. In their early years in the business, Salvador shares they used the heavyweight woodcarving molds.

Orencia's biscuits are manufactured twice a week. The volume varies depending on the orders. On the average, they can make 200 trays or what they call plantsa that can make 200 packs. Most of their workers have been with them for many years now.

Salvador shares that they used to supply supermarkets in Metro Manila but they stopped when they couldn't control the increasing prices of consignment.

Most of their customers are walk-in patrons who buy Uraro as *pasalubong* or for selling too. Some of them even come from Manila and other provinces. Sales are up during Christmas season, as some customers prefer Uraro Biscuits as Christmas giveaways.

Orencia's Uraro today comes in two packs and cost P35 and P60 each.

Food fairs

Orencia's Uraro has also participated in many food fairs, exhibits and bazaars in Laguna and Metro Manila. Those events, Salvador says, gave them the opportunity to further showcase their products.

Today, Salvador, together with his wife Olive, continues the tradition of making the special Uraro biscuits his mother has started. The couple, blessed with four children, has also expanded the business by making other *pasalubong* goodies.

Salvador, 62, still does the mixture of the Uraro, being the one who knows the recipe by heart. Asked if his wife knows the recipe, Salvador says with a grin, "No, it's still a secret."

Salvador still recalls the time when he was uncertain about taking over the business, but now he is very proud of the success of Orencia's Uraro.

He even displays certificates and awards, one dating back to 1950s, which his mother, Maura, received in recognition of her business achievements.

Salvador relates that there was a time when he considered stopping the operations of the business but the legion of customers patronizing their product prevented him from doing so. Salvador shares that it is the good quality of their products that draws the people to their store. He concludes by giving this piece of advice, "Maintain the good quality of your products, *para tumagal ka sa* business *at pupuntahan ka talaga ng mga tao*."

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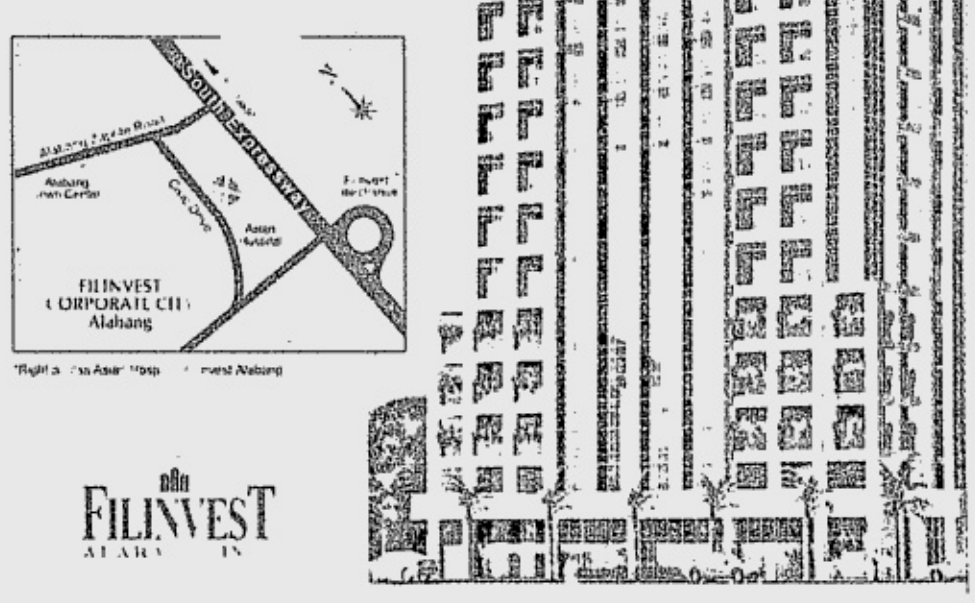

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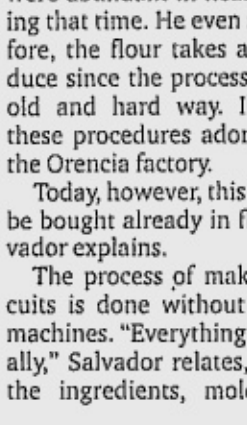
Looking back at generations . . .

From page B3

over in management of the emerging television network. At the fall of the Marcos dictatorship, Geny returned to the Philippines in 1986 after years of exile in the United States. With his brother Manolo, Geny reclaimed and rebuilt the Lopez media empire. In time, ABS-CBN's former glory was restored, with an even brighter sheen.

The duo's pioneering efforts did not stop there. The Lopez brothers, imbued with their father's drive and commitment to excellence, explored previously untapped sectors such as water, telecommunications, highways, land development and power generation.



GENY JR.

The secret of their success may be found in Geny's atypical business philosophy, with its decidedly altruistic bent. "I have always believed public service is the only reason for our existence," said Geny. "Profit alone is not enough of a reason to exist. If we can serve people, then our growth and success will follow. If we take care of our customers, then they will take care of us. That is the kind of culture a company should have."

Geny's staggering list of business triumphs are often attributed to his being a people-centered man . The man invested in his employees' talent and character, unlike other tycoons who invested only in business ventures. The men and women of ABS-CBN testify to Geny's knack for nurturing talent in his people, be they celebrities or executives.

Sharing his father's dream

When Geny's son, Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III, now chair and CEO, took over the business in 1997, he was determined to build on the blueprint that had been laid out by his father. His vision was brave and far-reaching, reflecting the era of globalization to which he belonged. From the moment he took over the company, Gabby set out to usher the network into the global landscape.

Without the aid of his illustrious family name and under exacting standards, Gabby pushed himself beyond his limits. The discipline he developed would serve him well later in his career. Even without training or any prior experience in media, save for a short summer stint as a radio disk jockey, Gabby's instincts and innate talents gave him everything he needed to steer ABS-CBN boldly into the new millennium.

Gabby's life philosophy is typical of the achiever—his boundless energy, coupled with his unflinching commitment to his family legacy—drives him to work at his peak, in every instance of every day. At times, he wonders if he has been able to earn the honor that was bestowed on him the moment he was charged with leading the company. The answer to this is clear enough: Despite challenges from all quarters, ABS-CBN remains the top television station in the country.

Family welcomes adopted son

Like his father and grandfather, Gabby pursued the path of the maverick. He gunned for the station's use of satellite transmissions. Entrusting programming details to Federico "Freddie" Garcia, more popularly known as FMG, Gabby delved into the uncharted territories of digital post-production, merchandising, cinema and music. It was clear that a new era had begun.

Currently ABS-CBN's president and chief operations officer, FMG's brilliance is said to be unbounded by time. When he first set foot on the premises of ABS-CBN in 1967, he hardly had any work experience in broadcasting. He was, in fact, a newly married 23-year-old former car salesman, with no experience in TV. However, Geny knew potential when he saw it, and gave the enthusiastic young man a chance. The rest, as they say, is history. FMG became television's pied piper—wherever he led, Filipino viewers were sure to follow.

With help from the likes of Charo Santos-Concio, and Johnny Manahan, FMG gifted viewers with trend-setting shows like TV Patrol, Mel and Jay, Maalaala Mo Kaya and Palibhasa Lalake. To date, FMG is credited with the reinvention of ABS-CBN. He coined TV IDs like "Maraming Salamat Po!," and "The Star Network", and tapped into the Filipino pride that was soaring in the glow of post-Edsa I.

Once ABS-CBN's hold on the market was secure, FMG's pioneering spirit led him to direct the network towards other ventures like the Talent Center, Star Cinema and other such lucrative businesses. He was, in fact, responsible for starting the telenovela craze that held the nation in its thrall and spawned a legion of imitators. With these pioneering efforts FMG secured a place in the Philippine Television Hall of Fame.

Every great enterprise has tried-and-tested formula for success. For ABS-CBN, it is the legacy of extraordinary leadership and noble vision that has been passed on from one generation to another. True to its mission, the network and its pioneers stand as example of what true leadership is all about—service.

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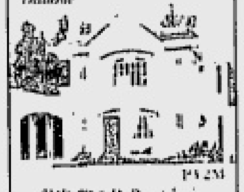

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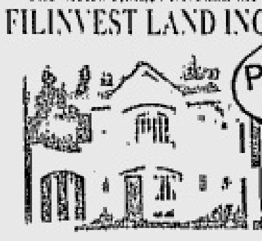

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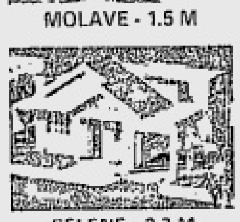

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MANILA

930T nr UDMC 0918-3381323

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MANDALUYONG

CALIFORNIA GARDEN SQUARE 2nd Tower 138m Mandaluyong nr Edsa MRT 2.5M assume bal 40T/mo Contact Nelson 365-0887

RUSH SALE 3BR 3TB w/ garage twnhse type 2.750M neg 09174143/03 prvt subd

PASIG

ALEXANDRA 182SQM, 216SQM, 250SQM 631-6649 CECILLE

VVERDE 2 60m² 2M 9122304

VVERDE 3BR 1.7M T9124323

QUEZON CITY

ASAP 1br Valencia Hills FA 46 P3.5 Call 634-1212

CONDO/TWNHSE

QUEZON CITY

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MONTGOMERY PLACE along E Rodriguez Ave nr St Luke's Hospital Model 127 2 units 3BR 1 maidrm 3T&B 2 car gar 8.5M net/unit Call 365-0887 / 0917-5415044 Nelson

QC Thse 3BR 115m² 9122304

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LE GRAN GHILLS 1BR/2BR Nice View •809-1322/26•

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

APARTMENT

PASIG

7 Doors Apts P35K/mo. Income Tel 758-0656 Diana

LOT

Comm'l 1100 SQM T. Morato cor. S. Lozano Tel. 4750556

KALOOCAN

RAINBOW VILLAGE 5 LA216m P3.473/m Vic 8903461 loc. 25

LAS PINAS

TALON 204m²@P4,500 639-1694 / 0917-8102903

MAKATI

Pembo Lot w/ Title P2M 113sqm 0920-2563603

MANILA

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LOT 180/m² 7137038

MANDALUYONG

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480m² 20T/M² Commercial #396 JP Rizal cor.P. Burgos Sto Nino Carwork Marikina Reggie- 0917-5393504

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CONCORDE VILLAGE 130m² LOT JEORGE 8536433

PASAY

586m Arnaiz very nr Mkti @25K 8754095/09175259510

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA333m P4 054/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

V. Verde Lots Call 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

500m² E. Rodriguez 7217222

VILLA ESPANA LA108 5um P12.000/m Vic 8903461 loc. 27

RIZAL

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BARAS 1100/m² 30/m² 2330330

OTHER AREAS

KINGSVILLE SUBD LA 397M P4 250/m Vic 8903461 loc 2.

Tgaytay Fil Farms 240sqm 1M 200 neg 5631164

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA24 125 sqm 8903461 27

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NAGA CITY 7217222

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RANCHO VISTA SUBD 81sqm P2 284/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL Bings 200m from Diversion Rd LA 6 9 4 m P185 50/m Vic 8903461 loc. 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL LA4000m P180/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

TOWN & COUNTRY LA180m² P2900/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA 128M² P2 900/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

LAGUNA

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SAN MIGUEL LA4000m² P180/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

TAAL Bings 200m from Diversion Rd LA 6794 m P185 50/m Vic 8903461 loc 27

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ORCHD B P180T 8278618

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PASIG

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2 Br 12.650 Pdha Mkti 523792.

P18T/mo 1BR Furn. 8278759

Mkt Good 4Residence/Comm'l 65m² P12T let/prkg 8906331

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66sqm F. Furnished
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MANILA

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2BR nr La Salle & Mktl 5637395 09209219118

STDIO nr La Salle & Mkti 5637395 09209219118

MANDALUYONG

1BR FULFURNISH PIONEER Highlands Globe Bldg P22K/mo Executive Utilities Ann 09178102907 Ruby 7122556 / 7122601

2br 2tb 1Pkg P15T/mo. Neg. 533-0447 • 0917-6231352

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Wack2 2BR 15T 09189420180

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CONDO/TWNHSE

PASIG

Mega Plaza 1br FF 631-0541

QUEZON CITY

2BR Furn P15T Columbia St. See to appreciate 6461603

2BR 2TB GRG 17 NORTH RD CUBAO NR EDSA 4158141

3BR Valencia corner Castilla St T7267909 / 09175325838 Rowena

Studio Type 52m² FF Xavierville Near Ateneo 259-11-03 • 0917-5348977

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MAKATI

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3BR 1TB 12Thou 844-6392

MANDALUYONG

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QUEZON CITY

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Prj3 new 3.5T stype 9137513

MANILA

Malate Studio, 24hrs. Security nr DLSU St Scho, PGH PWU 523-5455

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Pasay Prof 5500254/ 8315026

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HOUSE & LOT

Rent of Sale Chrysanthemum San Pedo Laguna T-09168726879

MANDALUYONG

Ghills West 857sqm rent or buy 60T 5631164

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CARS

BMW

'83 A/T WELL MAINTAINED Dark Gray P385T ALL ORIG. Call 09198616193

HONDA

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98Civic silver automatic 70th milegae 380T 0919-8237786

MITSUBISHI

'00 Adventure GLX green D8D 4618316/0919-3882770

'97 Pajero 721-1074 , ...

97S L300 V Van Gas RUSH ...

NISSAN

2000 Cefiro Elite 721-1074

Nissan Vanette A1 Cond. Makinis 1995 w/ Bulbar 220TH Call Tel 932-5346 QC

TOYOTA

'90LiteAce 8d 102T 4752630

94MR2 Color Red 17Mags & Wheels M/T Good Condition P188T Call 0919 ...029012

95FX GL pwr steering dual ac w/stereo 240T 0919-8237786

97Corola GLI a/t 290T 7213812

98REVO GLX 1.8 29tmileage all pwr 470T 0919-8237786

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3733901 loc. 8220/8302/8303

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CAR VANS 410-0495

L300 ADV. 741-1356

REVO w/driver 9272821

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BUYING USED CARS 8990215

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1HR FastCarLoan 7125202

2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/o Taking Car 6560140

2% w/oTaking Car 88/0493-95

2% w/oTaking Car 3..3 81-82

2% w/oTaking C.. 89594..

2% w/oTaking C.. 7650974/75

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

APPLIANCES

COMPUTER TABLE 7217222

KENWOOD STEREO 7217222

BILLIARDS

... 67...

...le/Rental/Service 8020566

BUY/SELL

Fuly Pd Education Plans 7800106 09177939632

COMPUTER

Computers 12 Units 4 Sale •890-2207 0917-8909151•

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GENERATOR 48KVA 7217222

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7220433 • 4123543

MISCELLANEOUS

Lorry tanker 32kl rush sale 09228... 636

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GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE

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6. Electrical cables.

All equipments are in good working condition.

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PCCI
307th & 308th PCCI
ALL-BREEDS DOGSHOWS
RIVERBANKS CENTER
MARIKINA CITY
OCTOBER 18-19, 2003
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
MR. TAKAHIRO MIYAGAWA
(Japan)
MR. KOJI WADA
(Japan)
As per AO # 32 S2000 of the Department of Agriculture Exhibitors are required to bring the updated vaccination records of their dogs duly certified by a Veterinarian with an updated PRC license and PTR.
CORPORATE SPONSORS:
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ADVANCE
Secondary Sponsors
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OfcMktg. Stf 09162131716 JLO

PHARMACIST 2916985 2772167

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CATHERINA FREDERIKA UYBOCO MORANDI was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc #261 Page #45 Book #X Series of 2003 by Notary Public Atty. Ramon F. Aviado Jr of Quezon City
(PDI- October 12, 19 & 26 2003)

ANNOUNCEMENT

KAIEN JUKU
Japanese Language Institute Speak, Read, Write Jap. frm Sensei Junichi Sakamoto Ph.D. The Country's first and intensive Program October 25 and 26, 2003 (9am-4pm) Sumulong Hway Antipolo City
6608765/09164475211
P400.00 w/meal Pls. Reserve

SECURITY AGENCY
REGULAR LICENSE/ CLEARANCES
QUALIFIED TO BID MULTIMILLION CONTRACTS
2.5 million
4726949

Wanted:
Cook, Janitor, Waiter
Part-time, not more than 30 yrs old; min. 1 yr. experience, resident of Makati preferred but not required
Telefax 898-2542 to 45
Ricco Renzo Galleries
G/F LRI Business Plaza, 210 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air Makati City

PCCI ASSEMBLY
GENERAL MEETING
VOTING MEMBERS
OCT. 26, 2003; 1:00 PM
SULO HOTEL, Quezon City
If you want to attend a discussion of the proposed By-laws before October 26, 2003
Pls. Call the PCCI office at 7218345/4124104 to 05

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

MELBA T. LAZARO
34 years old, widow from Malaybalay, Bukidnon employed as maid is suspected of stealing a cellphone worth P30,000 from employer.
If you know her whereabouts, please text: 0919-4950517

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
National Capital Judicial Region
Branch 144, Makati City

MA. TERESITA P. LEGACION,
Petitioner,
--versus-- CIVIL CASE NO. 02-449
KURT RICHARD C. MANRIQUE,
Respondent.
x- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that petitioner Ma. Teresita P. Legacion filed a petition for the declaration of nullity of her marriage with respondent Kurt Richard C. Manrique on April 22, 2002; that after hearing the Honorable Candido P. Villanueva, Presiding Judge of this Court, rendered a Decision in the above-entitled case dated April 24, 2003, the dispositive portion of which reads as follows:

"WHEREFORE, judgment is hereby rendered declaring the marriage entered into between petitioner Ma. Teresita P. Legacion and respondent Kurt Richard C. Manrique on November 9, 1999 in Las Piñas null and void *ab initio*.

The custody of their minor child Tracy is hereby awarded to petitioner subject to reasonable visitation right on the part of the respondent. The said respondent is hereby ordered to provide a monthly support of P20,000.00 to the child and to pay the costs of the suit.

Upon its finality, let a copy of this Decision be registered with the City Civil Registry of Las Piñas and the National Statistics Office.

SO ORDERED."

WHEREAS, respondent could not be served copy of the said Decision; hence, the Court issued an Order dated September 19, 2003, the last paragraph states.

"Accordingly, the Court hereby orders that the gist of the Decision together with the dispositive portion thereof be published at least once in a daily newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines at the petitioner's expense."

NOW THEREFORE, let this notice be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines at petitioner's expense.

Given this 10th day of October 2003, at Makati City.

(Sgd.) LOURDES A. GATDULA
Branch Clerk of Court

(PDI-Oct. 12, 2003)

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UG 23 MEGAPLAZA BUILDING
ADB AVE. COR. GARNET ROAD, ORTIGAS CENTER
PASIG CITY (BACK OF ROBINSON'S GALLERIA)
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2. Car: Chevrolet (Automatic); Make: Silverado; Model: 2000; Color: Black; Mileage: 17t km.
3. Car: Nissan (Automatic); Make: Sentra Series 3; Model: 1995; Color: Emerald Green; Mileage: 61t km
Contact Persons:
Mike — 0917-9076237
or Miguel — 0917-5366311

AFPP
Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philipines
in cooperation with
SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION
INQUIRER
PRESENTS

October 19, 2003, Sunday, 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
La Salle Greenhills

Club Performance Systems
Fitness First
Clark Hatch
Hanford
DARICREME

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

INTEGRATED TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

In order to provide new graduates of engineering and technical/vocational courses the opportunity to acquire actual experience in the field of electrical power transmission, the **National Transmission Corporation (TransCo)**, announces the opening of its **Integrated Traineeship Program** for **Year 2004**:

- **Cadetship Program** - on the job training for six (6) months intended for graduates of Electrical and Electronics & Communication Engineering Courses.
- **Apprenticeship Program** - on the job training for six (6) months intended for graduates of at least two (2)years Technical/Vocational Courses (i.e. Electrical Technology, Industrial Technology, Electrician, Aircraft Mechanic, etc.)

Qualification Requirements:

1. Not more than twenty five (25) years of age;
2. Must pass the **TransCo psychological examination** for **Apprenticeship Program**; or the **TransCo psychological and technical examinations** for **Cadetship Program**; and
3. No failing grades in major subjects as shown in the Official Transcript of Records

Interested applicants should personally apply on **October 9-24, 2003** from **1:30 PM** to **4:30 PM** at the following **TransCo Offices**:

➢ **Residents of Metro Manila:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
Human Resource Training Division Human Resources Department G/F, TransCo Main Building, Power Center Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City	(02) 922-5873 922-8435 local 5525/ 5526

➢ **Residents of South Luzon:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
HR/Administration Division – Regional Office San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna	(02) 922-8435 local 6425 (049) 411-2184

➢ **Residents of South Luzon:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
District 1 – Batangas/Cavite Mahabang Parang, Batangas City	(043) 300-3591 (043) 300-3592
District 2 – Laguna/Quezon Barangay Real, Calamba City	(049) 545-1915 (049) 834-01-58
District 3 – Bicol Area Peñafrancia, Daraga, Albay	(052) 824-11-02 (052) 824-7974

➢ **Residents of North Luzon:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
HR/Administration Division – Regional Office Pennsylvania Ave. Poro Point San Fernando City, La Union	(072) 888-0837 (072) 888-0839
District 1 – Ilocos Area Barangay Pottot, Bauang, La Union	(072) 242-1178 (072) 242-1173
District 2 – Mt. Province Area Beckel, La Trinidad, Benguet	(074) 444-7425 (074) 444-7423
District 3 – North Central Plain Area Barangay Sto. Domingo, San Manuel, Pangasinan	(075) 565-3267 (075) 656-3268
District 4 – Cagayan Valley Area Brgy. Rizal, Santiago City, Isabela	(078) 682-8406 (078) 682-8408
District 5 – West Central Plain Area Barangay Balsik, Hermosa, Bataan	(045) 971-6698 (045) 971-6780
District 6 – South Central Plain Area Barangay San Jose Matulid, Mexico, Pampanga	(045) 966-0436
District 7 – Northern Tagalog Area San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan	(044) 691-3330

➢ **Residents of Visayas:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
HR/Administration Division – Regional Office Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City	(032) 346-3427 (032) 346-9449

➢ **Residents of Visayas:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
District 1 – Western Visayas Area Zone III, Bo. Obrero, Ilo-ilo City	(033) 336-1489 (033) 336-8026
District 2 – Central Visayas Area Nasipit, Talamban, Cebu City	(032) 346-9338
District 3 – Eastern Visayas Area Barangay Milagro, Ormoc City	(053) 561-0140
District 4 – Negros Area Barangay Mansilingan, Bacolod City	(034) 435-4418 (034) 708-6988

➢ **Residents of Mindanao:**

Office & Address	Contact #s
HR/Administration Division – Regional Office Ma. Cristina, Iligan City	(063) 223-6613
District 1 – Northwestern Mindanao Area Rizal Avenue, Santiago District, Pagadian City	(062) 214-1856 (062) 214-1671
District 2 – Lanao Area Overton, Fuentes, Iligan City	(063) 221-6136 (063) 221-6133 (063) 221-6134
District 3 – Northcentral Mindanao Area Agoho Drive, Carmen, Cagayan de Oro City	(088) 227-23716 (088) 227-23744 (088) 858-6047
District 4 – Northeastern Mindanao Area J.C. Aquino Avenue, Butuan City	(085) 815-2178 (085) 342-8293 (085) 225-2147
District 5 – Southeastern Mindanao Area 3rd Floor, D&G Bldg., corner Yellowville & Sampaguita Mintal, Davao City	(082) 293-0208 (082) 293-0599 (082) 293-0205
District 6 – Southwestern Mindanao Area Calumpang, General Santos City	(083) 553-2819 (083) 552-3269

For **Cadetship Program**, only those who pass the psychological examination will be qualified to take the **technical examination** scheduled on **November 22, 2003 for Luzon** and **November 29, 2003 for Visayas/ Mindanao.**

PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE

INVITATION TO BID

Offered for Public Bidding on an "as-is, where-is" basis are the assets formerly belonging to **Pioneer Glass Manufacturing Corporation (PGMC)** consisting of parcels of land, buildings, machinery and transportation equipment located at Rosario, Cavite, at Sitio Lawis, Brgy. Alimango, Escalante City and at Purok Sherman Hills, Brgy. Baviera, Sagay City, both located in Negros Occidental.

The assets are offered in four (4) separate lots, as follows.

Lot No.	Description	Indicative Price
I	Buildings, machinery and transportation equipment	P3,047,000
II*	Land (10.29 hectares) located at Rosario, Cavite	175,042,200
III	Land (1.84 hectares) located at Sitio Lawis, Brgy. Alimango Escalante City, Negros Occidental	157,000
IV	Land (23.28 hectares) located at Purok Sherman Hills, Brg. Baviera, Sagay City, Negros Occidental	2,561,000
TOTAL		**P180,807,200**

*Bids submitted for Lot II will be opened only in the event that there are bids submitted for Lot I.

Bids will be received, opened and tabulated in the presence of the bidders on **29 October 2003,** at **3:00 p.m.** at the PMO Conference Room, 8th Floor, 104 Gamboa St., Legaspi Village, Makati City.

Interested parties may request for the duly authenticated copies of the **Asset Specific Bidding Rules (ASBR); Asset Specific Bidding Form (ASBF),** together with the **Asset Specific Catalogue (ASC)** for a nominal fee of P500.00 from the PMO Marketing Office.

In the event this bidding fails, PMO reserves the right to consider proposals submitted for the above assets.

For more information, please call Ms. Nadine M. Atilano of the PMO Marketing Office at 817-8762/892-2145.

(PDI–Oct 12 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City

Invitation for Bids

Date: October 3, 2003
ICB No.: SEMP2-TEEP-1-2003-TX
Invitation for Bids No.: 2003-01-TX

1. The Republic of the Philippines has received loans from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), toward the costs of the Second Social Expenditure Management Project (SEMP 2) and the Third Elementary Education Project (TEEP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these loans to eligible payments under the contract for Procurement of Textbooks (TXs) and Teacher's Manual (TMs).
2. The Department of Education (DepED) now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of about 9.2 million copies of TXs and TMs to public elementary school districts and high schools in the Philippines. The TXs and TMs shall be for the following subjects and levels:

Item No.	Subject Grade/Year Level	Total		Zone 1		Zone 2		Zone 3		Zone 4	
		TX	TM	TX	TM	TX	TM	TX	TM	TX	TM
1	English 3 - Language	1,931,174	55,326	415,237	11,895	629,803	18,041	439,250	12,584	446,884	12,806
	English 3 - Reading	1,931,174		415,237		629,803		439,250		446,884	
	Filipino 3 - Wika	1,246,297	35,693	38,150	1,090	629,803	18,041	131,460	3,756	446,884	12,806
	Filipino 3 - Pagbasa	1,246,297		38,150		629,803		131,460		446,884	
3	Mathematics 3	305,270	8,722	38,150	1,090	34,895	997	131,460	3,756	100,765	2,879
	Elementary	6,660,212	99,741	944,924	14,075	2,554,107	37,079	1,272,880	20,096	1,888,301	28,491
4	Araling Panlipunan III	1,225,502	35,162	297,427	8,529	463,308	13,284	230,263	6,611	234,504	6,738
5.	Araling Panlipunan IV	1,126,697	32,339	276,112	7,920	424,738	12,182	214,128	6,150	211,719	6,087
	Secondary	2,352,199	67,501	573,539	16,449	868,046	25,466	444,391	12,761	446,223	12,825
	Grand Total	9,012,411	167,242	1,518,463	30,524	3,442,153	62,545	1,717,271	32,857	2,334,524	41,316

Printing and Delivery Completion Period: 150 days. Indicative Printing and Delivery Dates: February, 2004 to June, 2004.

3. A margin of preference shall be granted to TXs and TMs manufactured in Purchaser's country for purposes of bid price comparison only.
4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from DepED and inspect the bidding documents at Room 112-A, Mabini Building, DepED Complex, Pasig City, Philippines, from 9.00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting October 9, 2003. Information is also available at http://www.DepED.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon submission of a written application to the address given on the next page and payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of Php3,000.00 or US$55.00. The method of payment will be cash, cashier's check, manager's check or certified check. The Bidding Documents will be sent by mail. No liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery.
6. A pre-bid conference shall be conducted on October 28, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, Philippines.
7. Bids must be delivered to the address indicated below, at or before 10:00 a.m. on November 25, 2003. A bid security shall be required equivalent to not less than 2.5% of the bid price, in Philippine peso or in any freely convertible currency of eligible countries. Late bids shall be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address, date and time indicated in the Bidding Documents.

1. **Address for Inspecting Bidding Documents**
   Name of Office : Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
   Street Address : Meralco Avenue
   Floor/Room number : 112-A, Mabini Building, DepED Complex
   City : Pasig City
   Postal Code : 1604
   Country : Philippines
   Telephone number : (632) 636-6542; (632) 633-9342
   Facsimile number : (632) 635-3762

2. **Address for submitting written application to request for Bidding Documents**
   Name of Office : Chair, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
   Street Address : Meralco Avenue
   Floor/Room number : 112-A, Mabini Building, DepED Complex
   City : Pasig City
   Postal Code : 1604
   Country : Philippines
   Telephone number : (632) 636-6542; (632) 633-9342
   Facsimile number : (632) 635-3762

3. **Address for submitting and opening of bids**
   Name of Office : Chair, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
   Street Address : Meralco Avenue
   Floor/Room number : Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Building, DepED Complex
   City : Pasig City
   Postal Code : 1604
   Country : Philippines
   Telephone number : (632) 636-6542; (632) 633-9342
   Facsimile number : (632) 635-3762

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – October 5 & 12, 2003)

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Cost/Estimating Engineers - Licensed Civil Engineer specialized in costing and estimating, not more than 40 years old.

Interested applicants are requested to apply personally or mail their resumé w/ certificates of employment from Mon. thru Fri., 8am - 5pm to:

THE HR DEPT.
Unit 6, 3rd Flr., Corporate House
cor. C. Benitez St., Santolan Road, Q.C.

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SBR TRAINING CERTIFICATE
(with opening/closing report)
Updated/Current Clearances
SEAFARERS BOOK BSC/PSSR
at least 2nd Year College
at least 5'6" height
21 to 33 years old

Apply at:
AUXILIUM SECURITY AGENCY, INC.
MNA Building, Room 401, 4th Floor,
F.A. Bonifacio Drive corner 186 2nd Street
Port Area, Manila
Tel. Nos. 528-19-38 / 528-19-37

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NB This program is administered directly from Canada

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Health
SAN LAZARO HOSPITAL
Sta. Cruz, Manila

SLH-BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The San Lazaro Hospital hereby invites sealed written bid for the procurement and delivery of various hospital supplies and materials for FIRST Semester CY. 2004 and Hospital Services for CY 2004.

Only responsible and duly licensed/accredited suppliers and/or exclusive distributors under the governing rules and the DOH Accreditation Committee and duly registered at the DBM G-EPS Registry are qualified to participate

Bidding documents can be secured at the Secretariat, SLHBAC, at the BAC Office, Rm 20, Payward, 2nd floor, Administration Building, SLH, Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz, Manila, upon presentation of the following

1. Authenticated DOH Suppliers Accreditation Certificate with the certified list of accredited products (Drugs & Medicines Laboratory/Medical/Dental Supplies/devices)
2. Authenticated copy of License to Operate (DTI/Mayor's Permit)
3. Authenticated copy of the DBM G-EPS Certificate of Registration
4. Payment of non-refundable fee for Janitorial/Laundry/Security Services – Php1,000.00; Drugs & Medicines/Laboratory - Php1,000.00, Medical/Gases Supplies – Php500.00, Dental/Radiology/Dietary/Engr. & Maintenance – Php300.00, & Janitorial Supplies – Php200.00

Particulars	Issuance of Bid Documents	Pre-Bid Conference	Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
Category I: Services				
a. Janitorial Service	Oct. 6-20, 2003	Oct. 23, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 12, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 12, 2003 9:01 am
b. Laundry Service	Oct. 6-20, 2003	Oct. 23, 2003 10:30 am	Nov. 12, 2003 2:00 pm	Nov. 12, 2003 2:01 pm
Security Service	Oct. 6-20, 2003	Oct. 24, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 13, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 13, 2003 9:01 am
Category II: Hospital Supplies/Materials				
1 Various Drugs/ Medicines	Oct. 13-Nov. 7, 2003	Oct. 29, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 18, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 18, 2003 9:01 am
2. Various Laboratory Reagents/Supplies	Oct. 13-Nov. 7, 2003	Oct. 29, 2003 2:00 pm	Nov. 19, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 19, 2003 9:01 am
Various Medical Supplies/Oxygen & Gases	Oct. 13-Nov. 7, 2003	Oct. 30, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 20, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 20, 2003 9:01 am
4. Various Dietary Foodstuff	Oct. 13-Nov. 7, 2003	Oct. 30, 2003 2:00 pm	Nov. 21, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 21, 2003 9:01 am
Various Radiology Supplies	Oct. 15-Nov. 12, 2003	Nov. 4, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 24, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 24, 2003 9:01 am
6. Various Dental Supplies	Oct. 15-Nov. 12, 2003	Nov. 4, 2003 10:30 am	Nov. 24, 2003 10:30 am	Nov. 24, 2003 10:31 am
Various Maintenance Supplies	Oct. 17-Nov. 13, 2003	Nov. 6, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 26, 2003 9:00 am	Nov. 26, 2003 9:01 am
8. Various Janitorial Supplies	Oct. 17-Nov. 13, 2003	Nov. 6, 2003 10:30 am	Nov. 26, 2003 2:00 pm	Nov. 26, 2003 2:01 pm

All activities shall be held at the SACCL Conference Room/SLH Amphitheater Audio Visual Room, San Lazaro Hospital Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise

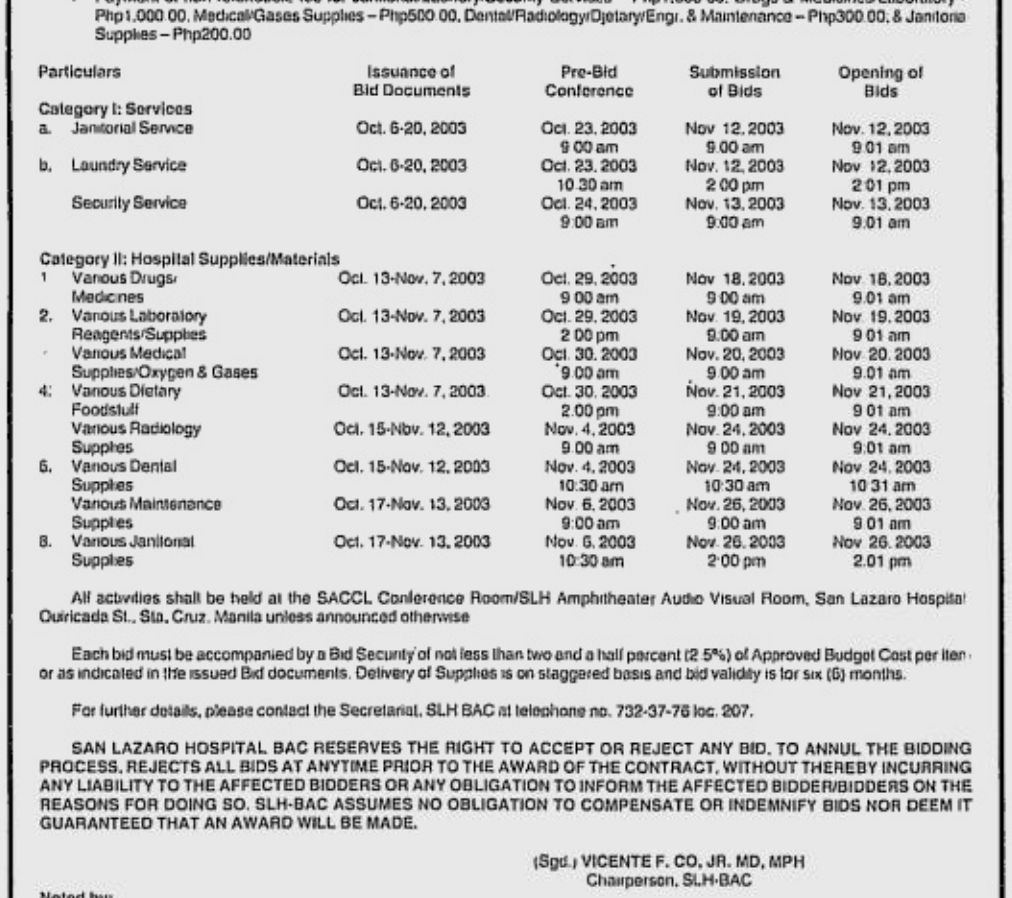
Each bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than two and a half percent (2.5%) of Approved Budget Cost per item or as indicated in the issued Bid documents. Delivery of Supplies is on staggered basis and bid validity is for six (6) months.

For further details, please contact the Secretariat, SLH BAC at telephone no. 732-37-76 loc. 207.

SAN LAZARO HOSPITAL BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY BID, TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS, REJECTS ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO. SLH-BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) VICENTE F. CO, JR. MD, MPH
Chairperson, SLH-BAC

Noted by:
(Sgd.) ARTURO B. CABANBAN, MD, DTM&H, FPSMID, MHA
Officer-in-Charge, San Lazaro Hospital
(PDI-Oct. 5 & 12, 2003)



MOA SIGNING FOR PROPOSED DILG HEADQUARTERS
NHA General Manager Edgardo D. Pamintuan (extreme left) and DILG Secretary Jose D. Lina (extreme right) recently forged a Memorandum of Agreement for purchase of 5,000 square meter lot along North Avenue, Quezon City (opposite Veterans Memorial Hospital) to be used as site for the DILG Headquarters. Also in photo are DILG Head Executive Assistant Atty. Alan Yap (second from right) and NHA officials.

BCDA

BASES CONVERSION DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

INVITATION FOR THE SELECTION OF FINANCIAL ADVISOR FOR THE PREPARATION OF PRIVATIZATION PLAN OF BCDA SHARES IN FBDC

The Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA) is inviting interested banks/financial institutions to participate in the selection of Financial Advisor for the preparation of the privatization plan of BCDA shares in Fort Bonifacio Development Corporation (FBDC).

FBDC, the joint venture corporation between BCDA and Bonifacio Land Corporation (BLC) was organized for the purpose of developing Phase I of the 214 hectares Fort Bonifacio area. BCDA is 45% shareholder of FBDC while the equity contribution of BLC is 55%.

BCDA is seriously considering to dispose its shares in FBDC in line with its disposition mandate and the current privatization trusts of the national government. BCDA is seeking proposals for a Financial Advisor who would prepare the privatization plan, valuation/market studies, determination of the number of shares to be disposed and the optimal timing/schedule of disposition considering the present market conditions.

Interested banks/financial institutions may submit their Letter of Interest to BCDA and can purchase the Terms of Reference (TOR) in the Selection of Financial Advisor for the preparation of privatization plan of BCDA shares in FBDC.

The TOR for the above services will be ready for distribution to interested parties on October 12-21, 2003 from 8:00 AM-5:00 PM at the BCDA offices at a non-refundable cost of Two Thousand Pesos (Php 2,000.00) for each TOR, payable to BCDA in Cash or Manager's Check.

BCDA will only accept prospective bidders with the following minimum qualifications:
- Must have at least three (3) years experience in financial advisory services; and
- Must have undertaken financial advisory services of projects totaling to P500 million and above for at least five years.

Interested parties are invited to attend a bid conference tentatively set at 10:00 a.m. on 22 October 2003. The objective of the bid conference is to discuss the proposed disposition of FBDC shares, TOR and other possible questions that may be raised by the interested bidder. The venue of the meeting will be at the BCDA Corporate Center, VAB, Pasay City.

Interested banks/financial institutions can direct their inquiries to Mr. Victor V. Zablan and/or Ms. Hedda Y. Rulona at telephone numbers 510-0410 and 551-1836 or at vvzablan@bcda.gov.ph or hyrulona@bcda.gov.ph.

(Sgd.) RUFO COLAYCO
President & CEO

(PDI – October 12 & 20, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

ROSARIO D. RODRIGUEZ

REMEDIOS S. BASALO

MA. LINA REMIENDO

NESTOR A. FEBIAR

This is to inform the public that the persons whose pictures appear above are no longer connected with **DWIGHTSTEEL BLDG. SYSTEMS, INC.**

Any business transaction entered by them for and behalf of **DWIGHTSTEEL BLDG. SYSTEMS, INC.** shall not be acknowledged nor honored by the company.

(PDI-Oct. 12, 2003)

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2004—2014

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*For Baguio City residents you may claim your FREE Copy on Oct. 12-13, 2003 at Guesthouse #6, Teacher's Camp along Leonard Wood Road, from 4:00 – 6:00 P.M. only. Bring this ad with you.

Republic of the Philippines
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
INTER-AGENCY BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

NOTICE TO PROSPECTIVE BIDDERS OF AFP COMBAT BOOTS AND PONCHO TENTS

The Procurement Service announces the increase in the bid quantity and the approved budget for the contract to be bid for the following requirements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines

ITEMS FOR BID	QUANTITY	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
COMBAT BOOTS	78,238 pairs	P 93,885,600.00
PONCHO TENT	78,238 pieces	P 43,030,900.00

For queries, please contact the PS Purchasing Division at telephone nos. 563-93-74 or 563-94-02.

(Sgd.) EDUARDO P. OPIDA
Chairman, IABAC

(PDI - Oct. 12, 2003)

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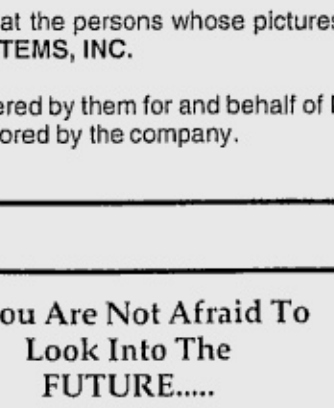
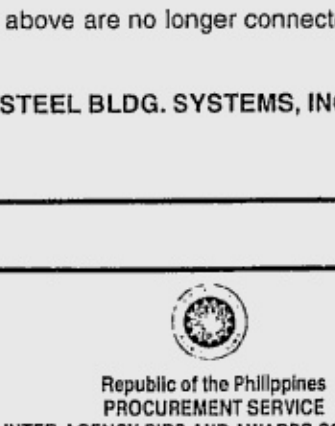
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC


Richard Eric G. Belda


Carl G. Vesorio

are no longer connected with us effective July 1, 2003.

COMGLASCO CORPORATION

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(PDI-Oct. 12, 2003)

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Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation

Responding Through Responsible Gaming

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO. 09-30-2003

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Project	Supply & Delivery 12,000 pcs. Foldable Chair
Approved Budget	Two Million Nine Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Six Hundred Pesos (P 2,985,600.00)
Source of Funds	Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Division (SRED), Procurement & Property Department (PPD) 2nd Floor, PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Mla., Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from October 10, 2003 to October 24, 2003** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Five Thousand Pesos (Php 500.00)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

Pre-Bid Conference	October 24, 2003 (3:00 p.m.)
Submission of Bids	November 5, 2003 (2:00 p.m.)
Opening of Bids	November 5, 2003 (2:00 p.m. onwards)

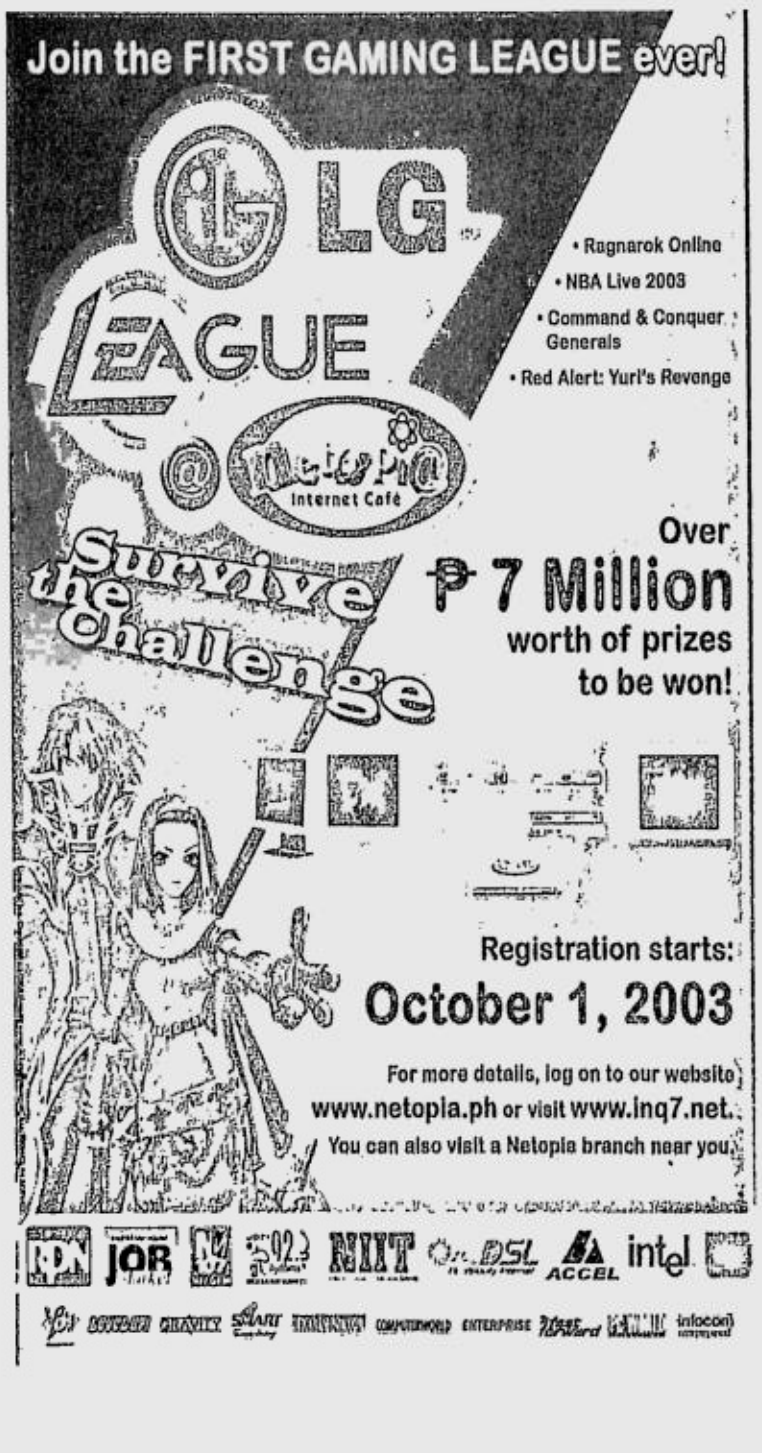
PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder found to have submitted falsified documents and/or information, to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder/s.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) RENE C. FIGUEROA
Chairperson, BAC-I

(PDI – October 12 & 19, 2003)



GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM

Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

INVITATION TO BID

The GSIS, thru its Acquired Assets Evaluation Committee, shall conduct a public bidding for the block sale (that is on a per subdivision basis) of the following subdivision housing units and lots on **November 5, 2003** at **2:00 p.m.** in the GSIS Headquarters Financial Center, Roxas Blvd., Pasay City:

CODE NO.	SUBDIVISION	MINIMUM BID
SRMH 0001-0031	31 housing units and lots Mary Homes Subdivision Molino, Bacoor, Cavite	P 10,205,000.00
SRVV 0001-0348	348 housing units and lots Viva Villa Subdivision Brgy Tangle, Mexico, Pampanga	P 75,000,000.00
QRSI 0001-0066	66 housing units and lots Area B Queen's Row Subd. Molino, Bacoor, Cavite	P 27,778,640.00

Interested corporations/individuals are required to secure copies of a) INSTRUCTION TO BIDDERS and (b) BID FORMS from the The Disposition of Assets Department, 5F, Core C, GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Pasay City.

Sealed proposals, in triplicate, will be received at the 3rd Level, Core G, GSIS Headquarters, Financial Center, Pasay City, starting at **8:00 A.M. BUT NOT LATER THAN 1:30 P.M.** on **November 5, 2003.**

Each bid proposal shall be accompanied by a DEPOSIT IN CASH or CERTIFIED CASHIER'S/MANAGER'S CHECK issued in Metro Manila, payable to the GSIS in an amount equivalent to at least TEN (10%) PERCENT of the total bid price.

If the winning bidder who submitted the best offer fails to consummate the purchase of the property within the period of time prescribed by the GSIS, his/her deposit will be FORFEITED and failure of bidding shall be declared.

ALL AWARDS BY THE AAEC ARE SUBJECT TO THE FINAL APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER and/or BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

(Sgd.) **ARNALDO C. CUASAY**
Senior Vice President
Housing and Real Property
Dev't. Group, GSIS

(PDI - Oct. 12 2003)

INVITATION FOR BID
(AMENDED)
ARMM SOCIAL FUND
Loan No. 7153 PH
IFB-ASF-01-2003

October 7, 2003

1. The Government of the Philippines through the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of strategic infrastructure component of the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) Project and it intends to apply a portion of this proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the construction of various infrastructure sub-projects. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA Credits.
2. The ARMM Social Fund (ASF) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the hereunder subproject:

Package 3, Project Code		SRI-PO4-001
		Rehabilitation and Improvement of Sulu Provincial Hospital
Project Location		Jolo, Sulu

3. Interested eligible bidders who have participated in the bidding of the above-mentioned subproject may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at ARMM Social Fund, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Building, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City
4. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundble fee of PhP 3,500.00 or its equivalent in a fully convertible currency starting October 13, 2003. The method of payment will be on cash basis only.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after bid opening and must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on November 05, 2003 at the ASF Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of at least 2.5% of the total bid amount in the form of cash, certified check, or bank guarantee drawn against a Bank acceptable to the ASF to expire (30) calendar days beyond bid validity
6. Interested bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at ASF Office on October 21, 2003, 9:00 a.m
7. The ARMM Social Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to the award of the contract without thereby incurring financial or any liability to the affected bidder or bidders on the grounds for the ARMM Social Fund's action.

Republic of the Philippines
ARMM Social Fund
3/F VHW (Land Bank) Bldg.
Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City
Tel. (062) 992-2684-86 / 992-2706
Fax (062) 991-9410
Email: ASF@mozcom.com

(Sgd.) NAZRULLAH B. MANZUR
Executive Director

(PDI – October 12, 2003)

DAVIES PAINTS REINVENTED SPONSORS PHILCONSTRUCT 2003. Charter Chemical & Coating Corporation – the maker of Davies Paints Reinvented has recently signed as one of the sponsors of the country's most comprehensive construction trade show, PhilConstruct 2003. The Event, organized by the Philippine Constructors Association, Inc. (PCA), is set on November 13 to 16 at the World Trade Center. Shown at the signing of the agreement are (seated L-R) PCA 1st vice president & PhilConstruct 2003 chairman Engr. Jorge A. Consunji, Davies Paints business development manager Edison Oribiana. PCA 2nd vice president & Technoforum 2003 chairman Engr. Liberito V. Espiritu, (standing L-R) PCA secretary & PhilConstruct 2003 program committee co-chairman Engr. Jerico T. Borja and PhilConstruct 2003 exhibit manager L.A. Ducut & Company, Inc. managing director Lilibeth D. Abais.

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

REQUEST FOR QUOTATIONS

Supply and Delivery of Weighing Scale
(RFQ No. ADB-ECD-03-DOH-004)

1. The Government of the Philippines has received loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of the Early Childhood Development Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of these loans to payment under the contract for which this Request for Quotation is issued.
2. The Department of Health now requests price quotations for supply and delivery of 4,200 sets of Weighing Scales for Infants.
3. International Shopping procedures will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Procurement Guidelines.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents at the Procurement and Logistics Service (PLS), Building 25, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila from 15 October to 10 November 2003 between 8:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M.
5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder at the said address upon payment of a non-refundable fee of FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) or ONE HUNDRED FIFTY US DOLLARS (US$150.00), including mail fee for foreign suppliers. The method of payment may be cash or bank draft. If payment is in form of bank draft, the check should be for the account of the Department of Health. Information including names of potential bidders and contact persons, telephone and facsimile numbers, cable, e-mail, and mailing address should be provided in the application to facilitate communications during the bidding process.
6. Quotations must be delivered at HHRDB Conference Room. Building 12A, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila at or before 9:00 AM on 11 November 2003.
7. Quotations must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than two percent (2%) of the total Bid Price in the currency of the quotation or another freely convertible currency. Late quotations shall be rejected. Quotations will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend on 11 November 2003 at 9:01 AM at the HHRDB Conference Room.
8. Prior to opening of quotations, a pre-bid conference will also be held at the HHRDB Conference Room at 9:00 AM on 28 October 2003.
9. The Department of Health will not be responsible for any cost or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or delivery of quotations.
10. In comparison of quotations, ADB's Domestic Preference Scheme will be applied in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the Instruction to Bidders.
11. The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation, to annul the bidding process and reject all quotations at any time prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders and to waive any minor defects or infirmities therein and to accept such quotation as may be considered most advantageous to the Government.

By the Authority of the Secretary:

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER A. PADILLA**
Undersecretary and Chairperson
Central Office Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - Oct. 12 2003)

INVITATION FOR RE-BID
ARMM SOCIAL FUND
Loan No. 7153 PH
IFB-ASF-01-2003

October 7, 2003

1. The Government of the Philippines through the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) towards the cost of strategic infrastructure component of the ARMM Social Fund (ASF) Project and it intends to apply a portion of this proceeds to cover eligible payments under the contract for the construction of various infrastructure sub-projects. Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD loans and IDA Credits
2. The ARMM Social Fund (ASF) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the construction of the following subproject:

Package 1	Project Code	SRI-P03-001
	Title	Center for Development Planning and Information Communication Technology Building
	Project Location	ARMM Compound, Cotabato City
Package 2	Project Code	SRI-P03-02
	Title	Passenger Terminal Building, Polloc Base Port
	Project Location	Polloc, Parang, Maguindanao

Interested eligible bidders and former bidders who have participated in the bidding of the above-mentioned subprojects may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at ARMM Social Fund, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Building, Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City

4. A complete set of bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of non-refundable fee of *PhP 3,500.00* or its equivalent in a fully convertible currency, for each package starting October 13, 2003. The method of payment will be on cash basis only

Bids shall be valid for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days after bid opening and must be delivered and will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representative who choose to attend at 10:00 A.M. on November 5, 2003 at the ASF Conference Room, 3rd Floor, VHW (Land Bank) Bldg., Veterans Avenue, Zamboanga City and must be accompanied by a minimum bid security of at least 2.5% of the total bid amount in the form of cash, certified check, or bank guarantee drawn against a Bank acceptable to the ASF to expire (30) calendar days beyond bid validity

6. Interested bidders are invited to attend a Pre-Bid Conference to be held at ASF Office on October 21, 2003, 9:00 a.m.

The ARMM Social Fund reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, and to cancel the bidding process and reject all bids, at any time prior to the award of the contract, without thereby incurring financial or any liability to the affected bidder or bidders on the grounds for the ARMM Social Fund's action

Republic of the Philippines
ARMM Social Fund
3/F VHW (Land Bank) Bldg.
Veterans Ave., Zamboanga City
Tel. (062) 992-2684-86 / 992-2706
Fax (062) 991-9410
Email: ASF@mozcom.com

(Sgd.) NAZRULLAH B. MANZUR
Executive Director

(PDI – October 12, 2003)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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ATTY. ELISEO "BENNY" V. VILLAMOR

Peacefully joined his Creator
on October 9, 2003 at the age of 69.

His beloved wife **Medy** (†), **Butch**, **Yam** and **Mikee**; **Joey** and **Joan**; **Carrie** and **Yonkee**; **Bong** and **Punky**; **Rowena**; celebrate his new life.

His remains lie in state at the Mt. Carmel Church, New Manila, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on Tuesday, October 14, 2003 after the 8:30 a.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park Crematory, Sucat, Parañaque.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

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EDGARDO MANABAT SAUL

COLONEL MC (GSC) RET.
of Marikina City and Sta. Rosa, Laguna

Passed away in the Grace of Our Lord
on October 10, 2003 at the age of 77.

His late wife **Cresencia**; children **Emil & Tey, Edwin & Iyonnie, Edgardo, Jr. & Susan**; together with his brothers & sisters, in-laws, grandchildren, nephews & nieces, relatives & friends, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Holy Trinity Chapel Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 14, 2003 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass.

God has you in His keeping; We have you in our hearts...

So Lovingly Remembered
on the
2nd Death Anniversary
of

LYDIA C. DIOSOMITO

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass shall be offered today, 12 October 2003 at the following churches:

Immaculate Conception Parish - Naic, Cavite ..... 6:00 AM
Sto. Niño Church - Ternate, Cavite ..... 7:00 AM
Our Lady of Assumption - Maragondon, Cavite ..... 6:00 AM
Holy Cross Parish - Tanza, Cavite ..... 6:00 AM
Resurrection Church - Tanza, Cavite ..... 6:00 AM
St. Jude Thaddeus - Trece Martirez, Cavite ..... 6:00 AM
St. Nicolas Tolentino Parish - Congressional Village, Q.C. ..... 6:00 AM
Chapel of Eucharistic Lord - SM Megamall ..... 11:00 AM

The family request the pious readers to continuously pray for the repose of her soul.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

The family of the late

PRESENTACION "Pesing" C. LACHICA

who joined her Creator on September 27, 2003

Her children: **Gloria & Brian, Diocy, Lina & Abet, Dory, Lito & Charito**

Grandchildren: **Carl, Gary, Oliver, Remalyn, Michelle, Abegail, Jennifer, Maricar, Denver, Annalou, Ryan, Robert & Pauline**

wish to convey their sincere thanks and appreciation to friends & relatives who condoled with them, attended vigils, sent flowers, offered Masses, prayers, novenas and messages of sympathy and who in countless ways provided strength and comfort in their moments of grief.

To Commemorate the 50th Death Anniversary of Don Enrique T. Yuchengco

Mass will be held at the
Yuchengco Mausoleum
Manila Memorial Park
Sucat, Parañaque
October 12, 2003
Sunday, 6:00 pm

Our Sincere Thanks

We, the family of the late

Dra. MARINA LAPUS VILLANUEVA

who joined her Creator on October 6, 2003

wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude to all those who offered prayers, sent flowers, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and were just there for us during our hour of bereavement.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

GRACIA RENIVA CONDE

wish to express our deepest appreciation to all of you, our friends near and far, who sent flowers, mass cards, letters of sympathy, spent precious time with us, gave donations and expressed in many other ways your love, concern and support during our time of greatest sorrow.

"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Message of Thanks

We, the family of our dearly beloved

Liberato Samoy Jimenez, Jr.

who passed away on September 28, 2003
wish to express our deepest gratitude to all of you who offered prayers and material help; kept vigil with us; and in many immeasurable ways condoled with us in these most difficult times.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of our dearly beloved

Zacarias A. Crispin

Retired CFI Judge

wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to all relatives and friends who condoled and spent precious time with us and expressed in many other ways their love, concern and support during our time of greatest sorrow

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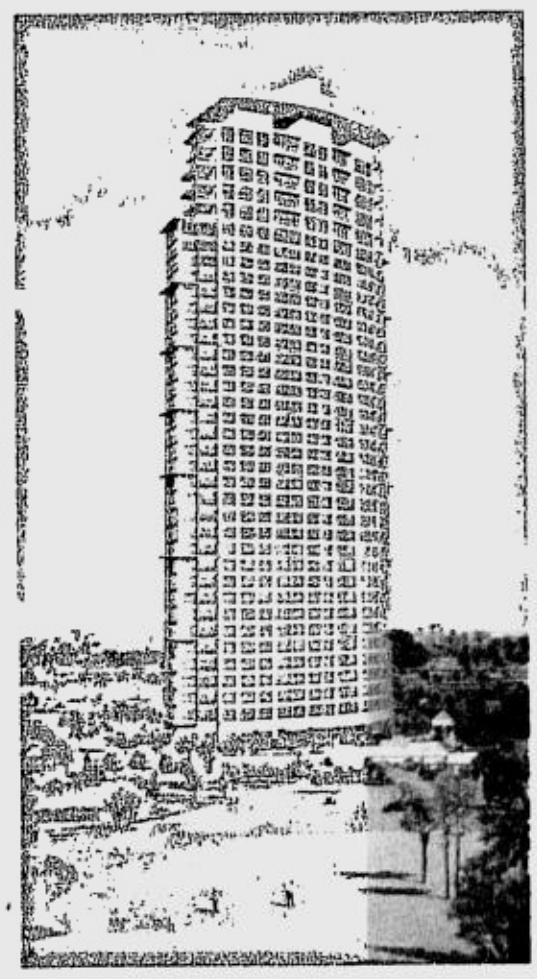
Finally, there's one place that lavishes you with nature's beauty amid all the wonders of a Global City: The Bellagio.



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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2003

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Louie C. Camino

BARRETO, Abunda's co-host for at least two weeks

The Buzz: Barreto takes over Kris

By Marinel R. Cruz

DIFFERENT female stars will take the place of Kris Aquino in co-hosting the entertainment talk show "The Buzz" with Boy Abunda, starting with Gretchen Barreto today.

Inquirer Entertainment on Friday learned from a "The Buzz" staff member that ABS-CBN management is looking for a new permanent co-host upon the request of Abunda, who originally hosted "The Buzz" alone.

Abunda now hosts the show with the help of correspondents Jobert Sulcadito, Jayvee Villar, John Lapus and entertainment editor Ricky Lo.

"Boy said it would be too hard for him to host and do all the interviews at the same time," said the "Buzz" insider. "He wants somebody who's a show biz insider who talks well and who can do interviews."

The source said Abunda met with his ABS-CBN bosses last Friday to discuss this.

"They will get a guest co-host every week," the insider said. "This will continue for four or five more weeks until they are able to get somebody to host permanently."

ABS-CBN will try to get Gretchen to host the show for two weeks, said the source. Gretchen was one of the hosts of the Sunday noontime show "ASAP," also on ABS-CBN.

On last Sunday's "The Buzz," Kris announced she was quitting as host, saying she would no longer be credible in interviewing stars about their lives and problems since she has personal problems herself. She recently had a sensational and violent breakup with her lover of one-and-a-half years, Parañaque Mayor Joey Marquez.

The source said the hosting job was first offered to comedian Ai-Ai de las Alas, who turned it down because of her busy schedule.

"I'm flattered they consider me a worthy replacement (for Kris), but as it is, with all my commitments, I hardly see my family anymore," Ai-Ai said last Thursday night. "Sunday is the only day I get to spend time with my (three) kids."

Ai-Ai is also a co-host on "Masayang Tanghali Bayan" and is in the sitcoms "Ang Tanging Ina: The TV Series" and "Wattamen," both also on ABS-CBN.

Kenkoy is alive and well—and he's back

/C2

POP ICON Kenkoy, born in 1929, retains his slick 'do and dapper fashion up to the '60s and '70s, as created by Tony Velasquez.

Mr. M, magic man

/C5

DIRECTOR Manahan turns on his 'detector.'

PHOTO BY JIM PAREDES

Another show biz writer dies

/C3

'Amazing Twins' star coming to Manila

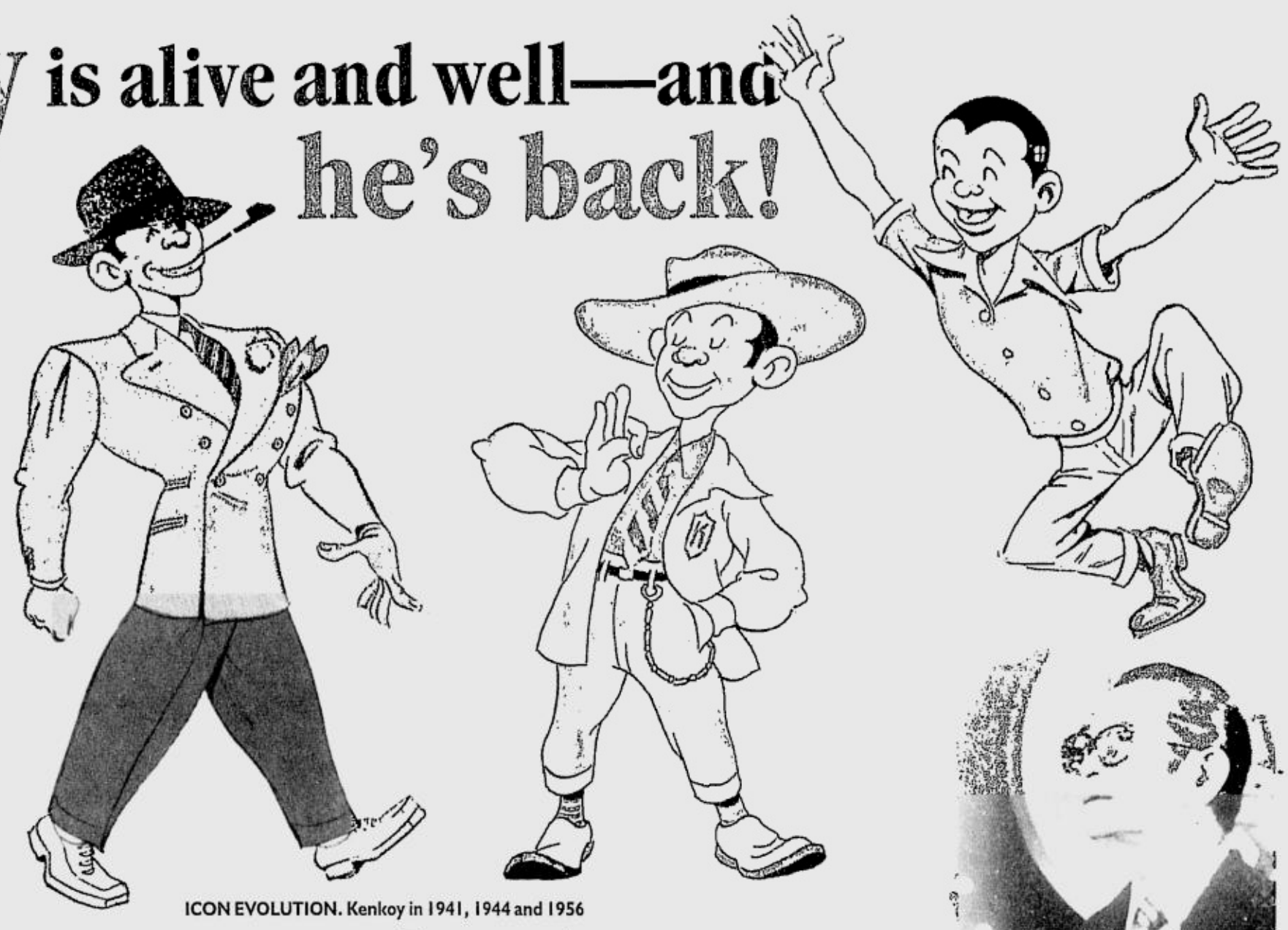
/C5

TAY

KENKOY KLASIKS by Tony Velasquez

LIWAYWAY 01.11.29 COURTESY OF LOPEZ MUSEUM / INQ EDITION 10.12.03

Kenkoy is alive and well—and he's back!



ICON EVOLUTION. Kenkoy in 1941, 1944 and 1956

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

THE COMIC book and its lesser-paneled sibling, the comic strip, have provided respite from the real world for about a century now in different parts of the globe. Way before television sets and computers became basic household must-haves, people peered into a different kind of windows for entertainment and information—the windows, or panels, of comics.

Creating them requires dedication and obsessive triple-checking. I know, for I've worked on some of my own. Some of my friends are industrious and talented comic book writers and artists whose works have been, or are being, published here and abroad. They also believe that it's a fun but serious job, and that creating life in a two-dimensional medium is akin to playing supreme god in one's own universe.

But *komiks*—with the k's—has often referred to weekly anthologies printed on thin newsprint, depicting contemporary times in the Philippines with funny or fantastic themes.

Everyman

This year marks the 75th year of the creation of "Kenkoy," the very first Pinoy comic strip and character. Next year, the *komiks* medium itself will be celebrating its 75th birthday, also brought about by the first serialized strips starring Kenkoy.

Aptly enough, the organizer of the upcoming celebrations, Marcelo Alonzo, is the owner of the Komiks Café on J. Nakpil Street in Malate, Manila. The café also proudly displays Kenkoy—on its neon sign, in the interior mural, and in a larger-than-life statue standing outside the door to welcome guests.

"When Tony Velasquez created Kenkoy, he never thought it was going to become popular," says Alonzo. "It's a satire. He's your everyday, ordinary guy. Every Filipino has his or her own Kenkoy within. *Wala siyang katulad sa ibang bansa.*"

Velasquez's widow, Pilar, gave Alonzo free rein on how Kenkoy's 75th year should be commemorated.

"She's very happy about the whole thing," he says. "I was given the rights to use the name and the character in this establishment, and to create merchandise."

The first and main salvo is the reprinting of

> The event is meant to reintroduce Kenkoy, not re-create him, since he's a classic

the early run of Kenkoy by Velasquez, and his then-temporary co-writer Romualdo Ramos, in Liwayway Magazine in 1929, and its subsequent incarnations elsewhere. The Kenkoy strips will appear every Friday, Saturday and Sunday in this section starting today.

"The objective of this re-launching is to make people aware of who Kenkoy and his creator are, and how they affected the lives of Filipinos then and now," explains Alonzo. "That's our intention, to reintroduce Kenkoy, not re-create him, because he's a classic."

He also believes that new readers can learn from these mirthful chronicles of a bygone era. "With globalization, people all over the world become homogeneous. Everything is within reach—through technology, computer, television or hand phones. People are very mobile. In Kenkoy, you get to see the real Filipino values: the *pagmamano* (kissing of the hand), the use of 'po' and 'opo,' the family values. That's the beauty of Kenkoy."

Velasquez spearheaded the medium and influenced other great artists like the late Larry Alcala, notes Alonzo.

Kenkoy's creator was also the first to poke fun at "carabao English," which was often integrated in Kenkoy's speech. The character also reflects Velasquez's own evolution as a storyteller and illustrator, which required painstaking effort and "the human touch," which Alonzo feels isn't always present today.

Celebration plans

Alonzo's Komiks Café will also be celebrating its second anniversary, almost coinciding with the date of the reprinting of the classic strip.

HONOR THE MAKER. Velasquez honored in the Komiks Operation Brotherhood awards as "Ama ng Komiks" in 1984

Alonzo says the café's name is a tribute to the escapist art form. "Komiks was read before for relaxation," he says. "TV sets were rare then. Now, people relax by going to a bar or a café."

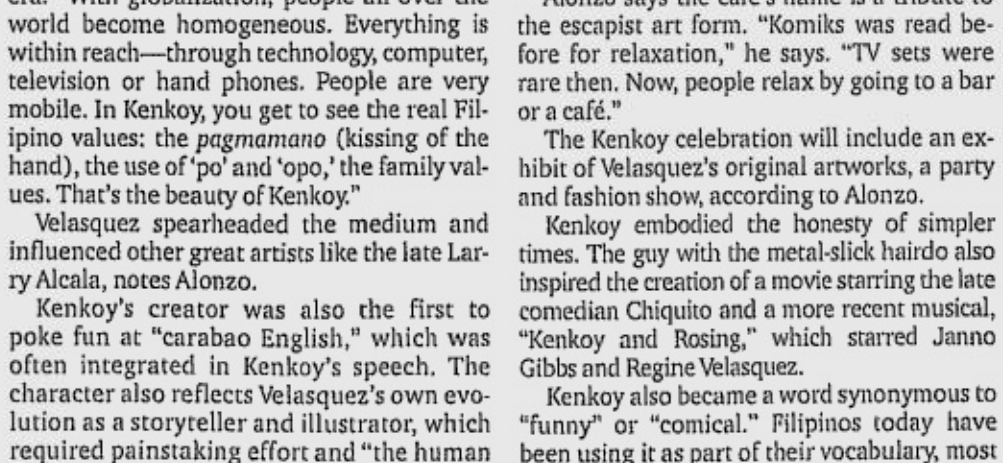
The Kenkoy celebration will include an exhibit of Velasquez's original artworks, a party and fashion show, according to Alonzo.

Kenkoy embodied the honesty of simpler times. The guy with the metal-slick hairdo also inspired the creation of a movie starring the late comedian Chiquito and a more recent musical, "Kenkoy and Rosing," which starred Janno Gibbs and Regine Velasquez.

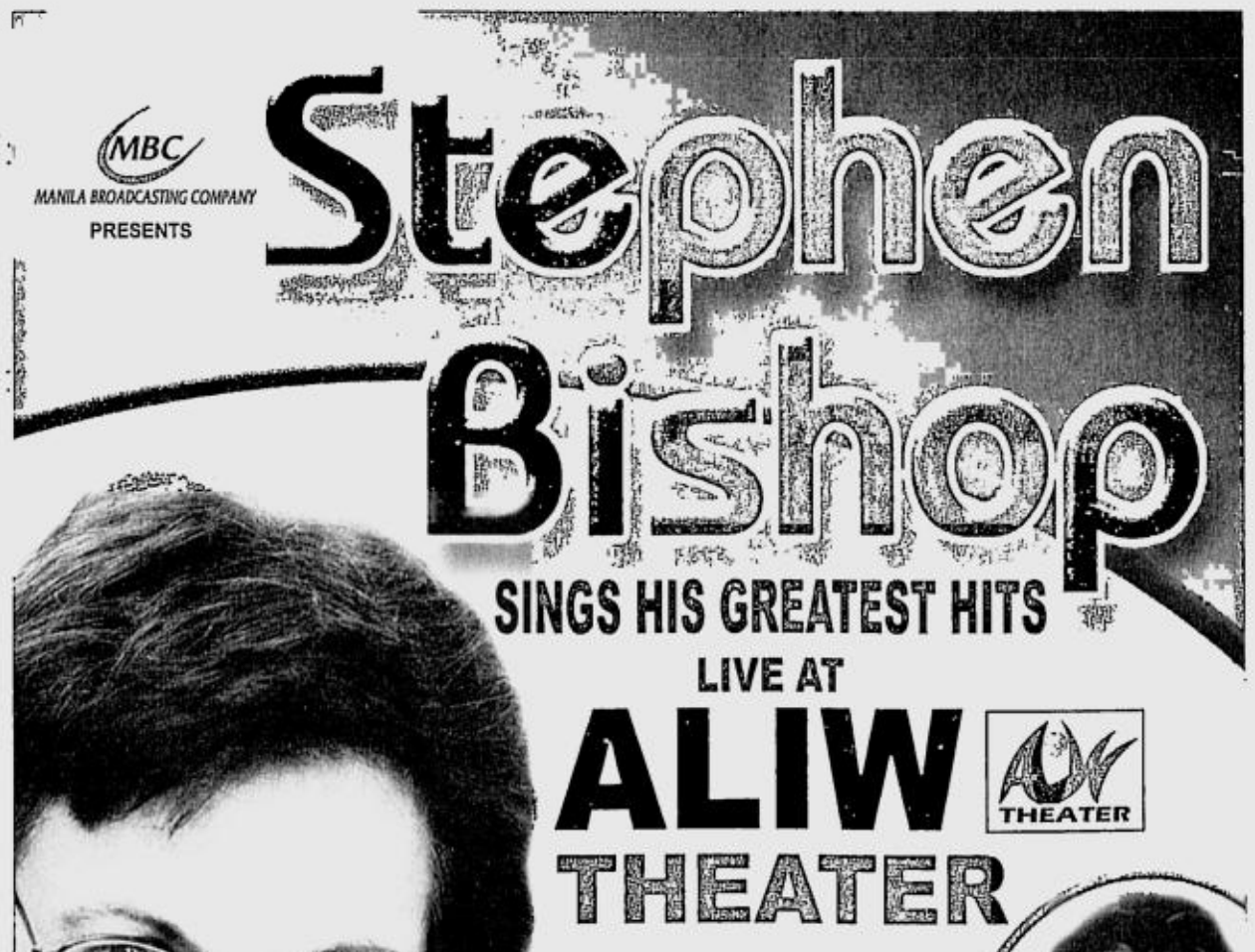
Kenkoy also became a word synonymous to "funny" or "comical." Filipinos today have been using it as part of their vocabulary, most of them unaware of its real origin. Kenkoy is short for Francisco, from Kenkoy's full name, Francisco Harabas.

Kenkoy is back in his original incarnation, and rightly so, according to Alonzo.

"He's the first Filipino pop icon," he says.



KOMIKS THE CAFÉ. Alonzo, in his own Komiks in Malate, is spearheading the Kenkoy celebration



How do you forgive the unforgivable?

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

TRUST **Oprah Winfrey** to hit the thematic and emotional jugular in her weekday TV show.

Last Monday, the celebrated talk show host surpassed herself with a full feature on that most difficult of human decisions: whether or not to forgive even the worst possible crimes perpetrated against us.

Many people say that they can forgive—but only up to a point. There simply are some acts that are too terrible to merit forgiveness. But Oprah's guests went far beyond those limits and found the "amazing grace" within themselves to forgive rape, severe injury, homicide—and everything.

Even more impressively, Oprah guested not one, not two, but five "forgiving victims." It appeared to be her way of showing that total forgiveness may be difficult, but it isn't all that rare an act, and it's also within many other people's power to decide to do.

The first case involved a married couple whose 4-year-old girl was killed when a car crashed into the restaurant where their family was having a meal. In court, the girl's parents surprised even themselves when they publicly forgave the woman who had driven the car that had snuffed out the life of their beloved daughter.

Next, a teenage girl was beaten up so badly that she lost an eye and had to undergo numerous major operations for many years before she could pick up the shattered bits of her life.

And yet, she, too, forgave her tormentors.

The third case involved two men who held an entire family hostage, raped the teenage girl in the family and killed both parents. At first, the rape victim was filled with hatred, but she eventually forgave her rapists and her parents' killers.

Oprah's next guest was a single mother whose only son had been shot to death in his car. She, too, found the heart and grace to forgive her son's murderer.

Finally, a woman forgave the killer of her mother and daughter. That was already impressive, but she went even further and befriended the woman responsible for her loved ones' deaths.

What did Oprah and her viewers learn from all of those sterling examples of forgiveness?

The five guests who had gone "through the fire" to arrive at their ultra-Christian frame of mind today generously shared their insights.

Forgiveness is something you do for yourself. It gives you control over the issues in your life. If you remain hateful and vindictive, you will forever remain a bitter victim of others' criminal acts, and you will eventually be consumed by that hatred.

Everybody makes mistakes, so the evil acts committed against us and our loved ones can be understood and forgiven within a human and Christian context. It just requires the victim to take the admittedly difficult step of rising above his anger and pain, to do what Jesus Christ himself did for our salvation.

Illuminating quotes from Oprah's guests:

"I forgave because I got tired of being alone, miserable and angry."

"All by itself, forgiveness has transformed my life."

"From being a victim, I decided to forgive so I could become the hero of my own life."

"Let go, and live on!"

'Results May Vary'

PIONEERING rockers Limp Bizkit have released their fourth album, "Results May Vary." It features the new hit single, "Eat You Alive."

The album features new guitarist **Mike Smith**, who replaced **Wes Borland**, and guest appearance by **Snoop Dog** and **Brian "Head" Welch** from Korn.

Since emerging from Jacksonville, Florida, in 1995, Limp Bizkit has become one of the most influential bands on the music scene and has sold close to 30 million albums worldwide. Its breakthrough disc, "Significant Other" (1999), sold more than seven million copies in the US alone.

'Identity'

TAKING its cue from such ensemble murder mysteries as "Ten Little Indians" and "Murder on the Orient Express," with a little "Bus Stop" thrown in for good measure, **James Mangold**'s "Identity" is poised to scare local viewers out of their wits.

In the film, 10 strangers with secrets take shelter in a desolate motel during a savage rainstorm. They are: a limo driver (**John Cusack**, an '80s TV star (**Rebecca DeMornay**), a cop (**Ray Liotta**) who is transporting a killer (**Jake Bussey**), a call girl (**Amanda Peet**), a pair of newlyweds (**Clea Duvall** and **William Lee Scott**) and a family in crisis (**John C. McGinley**, **Leila Kenzle**, **Bret Loehr**). The motel is run by a nervous night manager (**John Hawkes**).

But their relief at finding shelter is quickly replaced by fear as they begin to die, one by one. They soon realize that if they want to survive, they'll have to uncover the secret that has brought them together.

Another show biz writer dies

By Marinel R. Cruz

ENTERTAINMENT writer Hermie Francisco died Wednesday afternoon of cancer at his home in Quezon City.

Hermie, who was a columnist of Abante, would have been 61 last Friday, Oct. 10.

Hermie's death came only a day after writer, columnist and former entertainment editor Julie Fe Navarro died on Oct. 7, of cancer of the uterus.

According to his brother, Rodolfo, Hermie's health had worsened since he underwent prostatectomy, or surgical removal of the prostate gland, two months ago at the Capitol Medical Hospital in Quezon City.

Hermie also developed a huge cyst in his neck shortly after the operation, Rodolfo added.

"Before the operation, Minyong could still walk around the house with a cane," Rodolfo told INQUIRER Entertainment last Friday. "He grew weaker and weaker until he could no longer sit up from his bed without assistance."

Hermie was cremated last Saturday at the Eternal Gardens in Quezon City after the 7 a.m. Mass at the Sta. Rita Church, also in Quezon City.

Rodolfo said Hermie's body had already been rejecting food a week before he died at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Hermie was diagnosed with diabetes five years ago, about the same time he started losing his eyesight, his brother said.

"Because he could hardly see, he would dictate his articles to my wife, Elvie," Rodolfo said. "He would get information through the telephone or he asked Elvie to do research for him."

Hermie had written a column titled "Private Ears" in Abante for almost 10 years.

He is survived by his brothers Renato, Edgardo and Rodolfo and sister Rizalina, nephews and nieces.

His remains lay in state at the Sta. Rita Church, Philam Life Village in Quezon City before they were cremated.

Hermie wrote for the weekly magazine MOD in the late '80s and was a high school teacher at Don Bosco Mandaluyong.

Sarah's album already golden

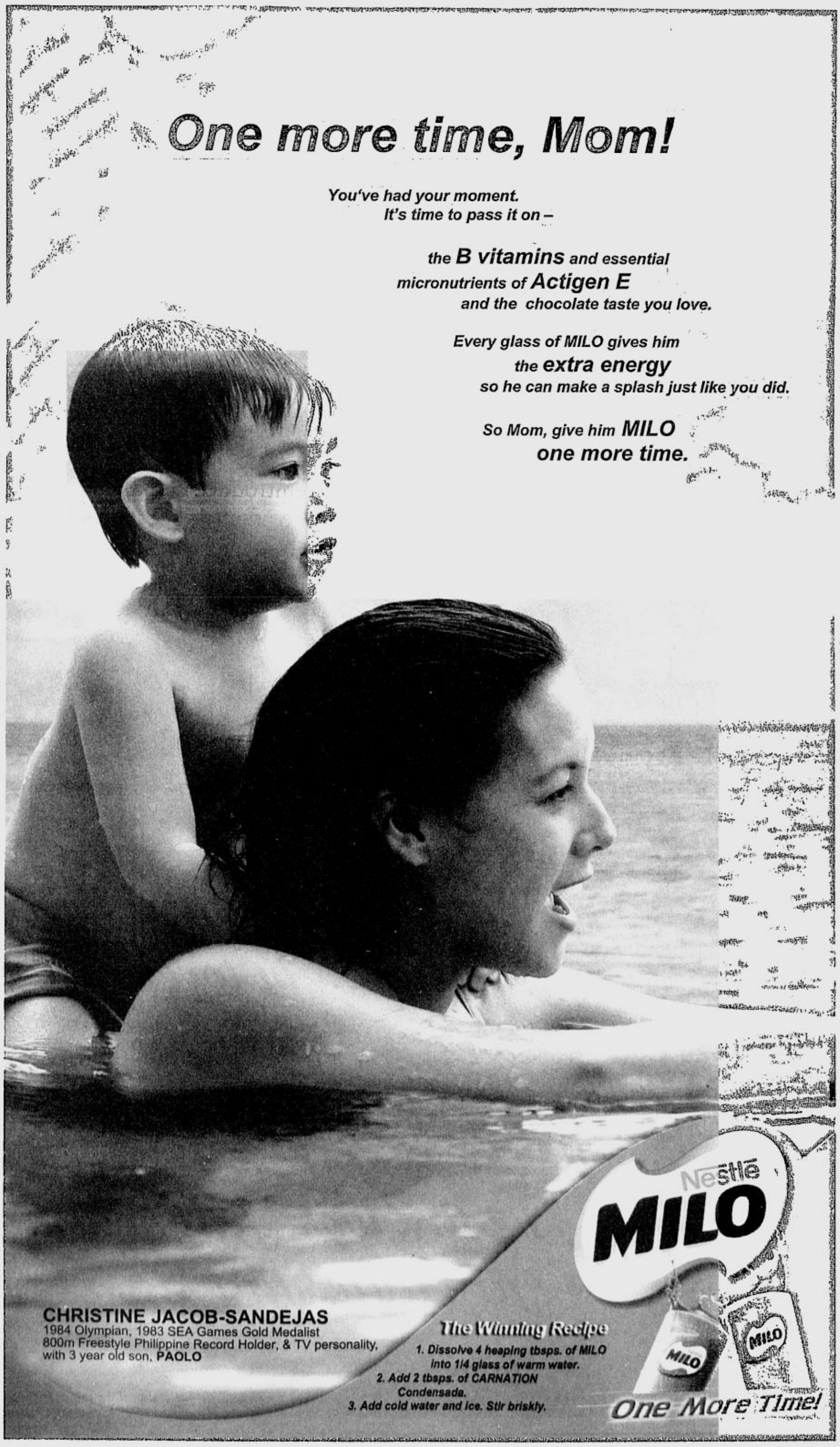
EVEN before Sarah Geronimo's sell-out first solo concert at the Music Museum last Oct. 4, her debut album from Viva Records had already turned gold, barely a month after its release.

The album, "Sarah Geronimo: Popstar... A Dream Come True," contains 15 songs, including her grand prize-winning song in the "Star for a Night" finals, Celine Dion's "To Love You More."

SHOW TIME

Its other cuts include "Just Believe," "If Only," "Ibulong sa Hangin," "It's All Coming Back to Me Now" and "I Will Do Anything for Love."

Her concert of the same title will be repeated on Oct. 24, also at the Music Museum.



'Paolo Santos by Request'

AMONG the hundreds of one-man acoustic acts, perhaps none has gained as wide a following as Paolo Santos, whose fan base now ranges from shrieking *colegialas* to beer-guzzling yuppies and balding, pot-bellied Gen-Xers.

The shy and humble Paolo shrugs off the accolade. "I know there are a lot of better guitarists out there," he says, adding in jest, "As for looks, I'm just thankful that I sing well because there's not much for them to look at."

Paolo performs in his first major concert, "Paolo Santos by Request," on Oct. 17 and 18 at the Music Museum at 8 p.m., together with special guests Arnee, Hourglass and South Border. Tickets are available at Ticketworld (891-5610), Music Museum (721-6726 and 721-0635), and Music One Entertainment (0917-600-1046).

Ariel, Regine in new MTV

FORMER sweethearts Ariel Rivera and Regine Velasquez are reunited in a new music video that will be launched on "SOP Rules" today at noon on GMA 7. The music video is for Ariel's latest single, "Tell Me" from his latest album, "In My Life" from BMG Records.

"Tell Me" was composed by Louie Ocampo and originally recorded by Joey Albert. Louie has rearranged it for Ariel and Regine.

Ariel's new album is now available on CDs and cassettes at all record bars.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	PILYA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PILYA
B	
C	

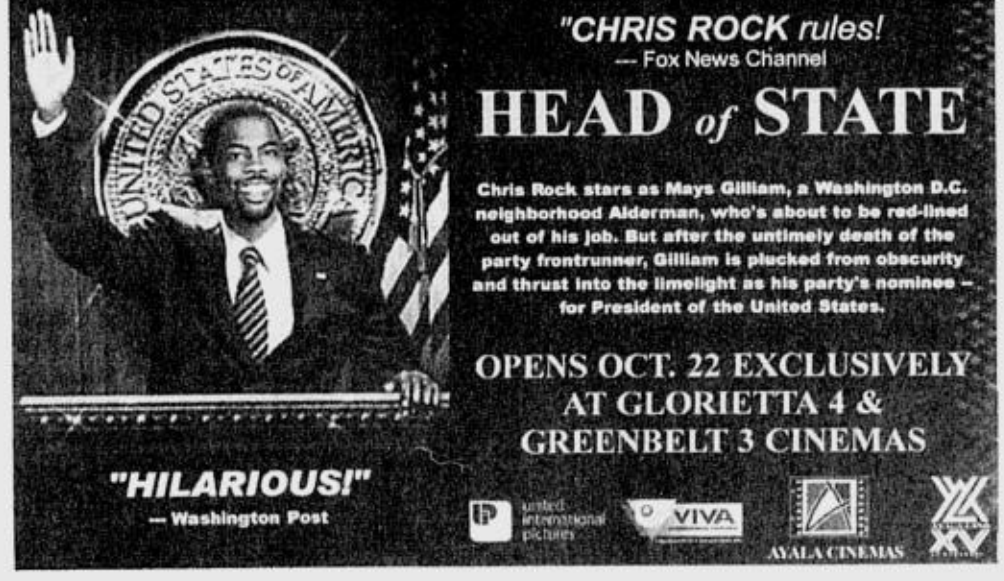
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

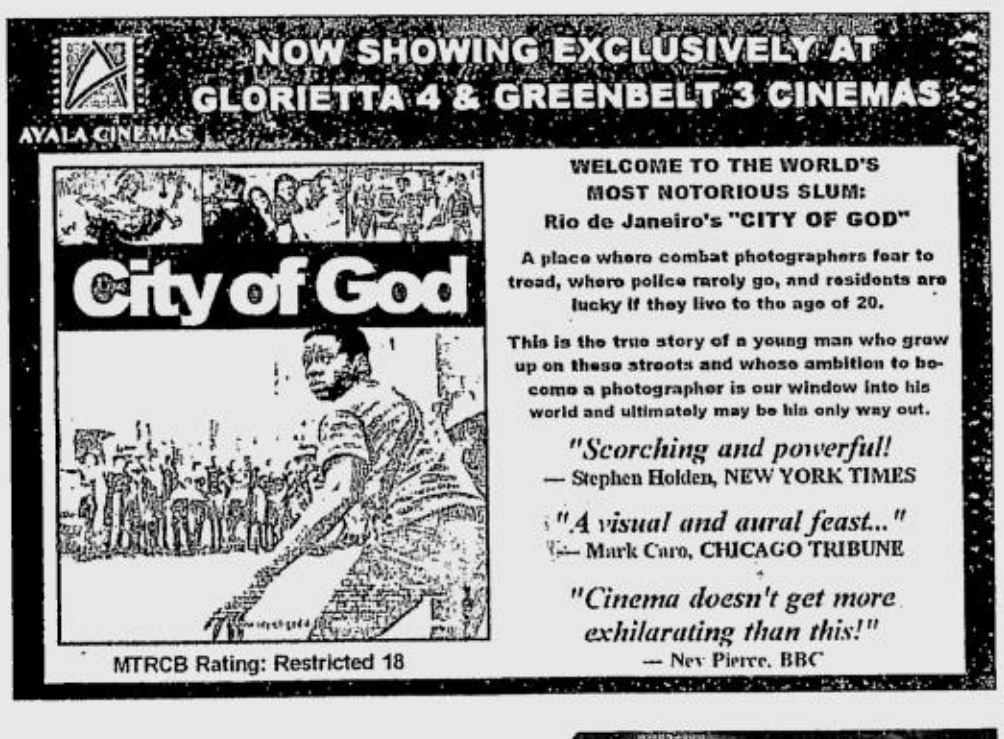
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5481 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KISKISAN
CINEMA-2	KATAS
CINEMA-3	PILYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEDALLION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TREK
CINEMA-6	TAKE MY BODY
CINEMA-7	FIRST TIME
CINEMA-8	JASON VS FREDDY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-11(SDDS)	HOW TO DEAL
CINEMA-12	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
CINEMA-14	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-15	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

LORES	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PINAS)	HOLLYWOOD REMIX
CINEMA-1	MEDALLION
CINEMA-2	DARK WATER
CINEMA-4	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA





Pablo coming today

ARGENTINA'S Segundo Cernadas—Pablo in the hit drama series "Monica Brava"—is arriving in Manila today to star in a GMA 7 telenovela. An earlier erroneous report said he was coming last Saturday.

TAY takes a break

'Amazing Twins' star coming to Manila

SETTAWAT Tay Sethakorn, the Thai star of the pioneering chinovela "The Amazing Twins" on IBC 13, is arriving in the Philippines for a visit on Tuesday, Oct. 14.

Tay is taking a break from his hectic schedule in Taipei and Shanghai and is looking forward to enjoying Manila's night life while he is also promoting his TV series, according to Viva Productions, which presents "The Amazing Twins" every Saturday at 8 p.m. on IBC 13.

"The Amazing Twins" has breathtaking action, rollicking comedy, romance, melodrama and two of the most popular, most talented and best looking young actors in Asia today, Tay and Jimmy Lin.

Tay, who is also a top recording artist and movie actor in China and Taiwan, plays Gary, the quiet, serious, gentlemanly twin.

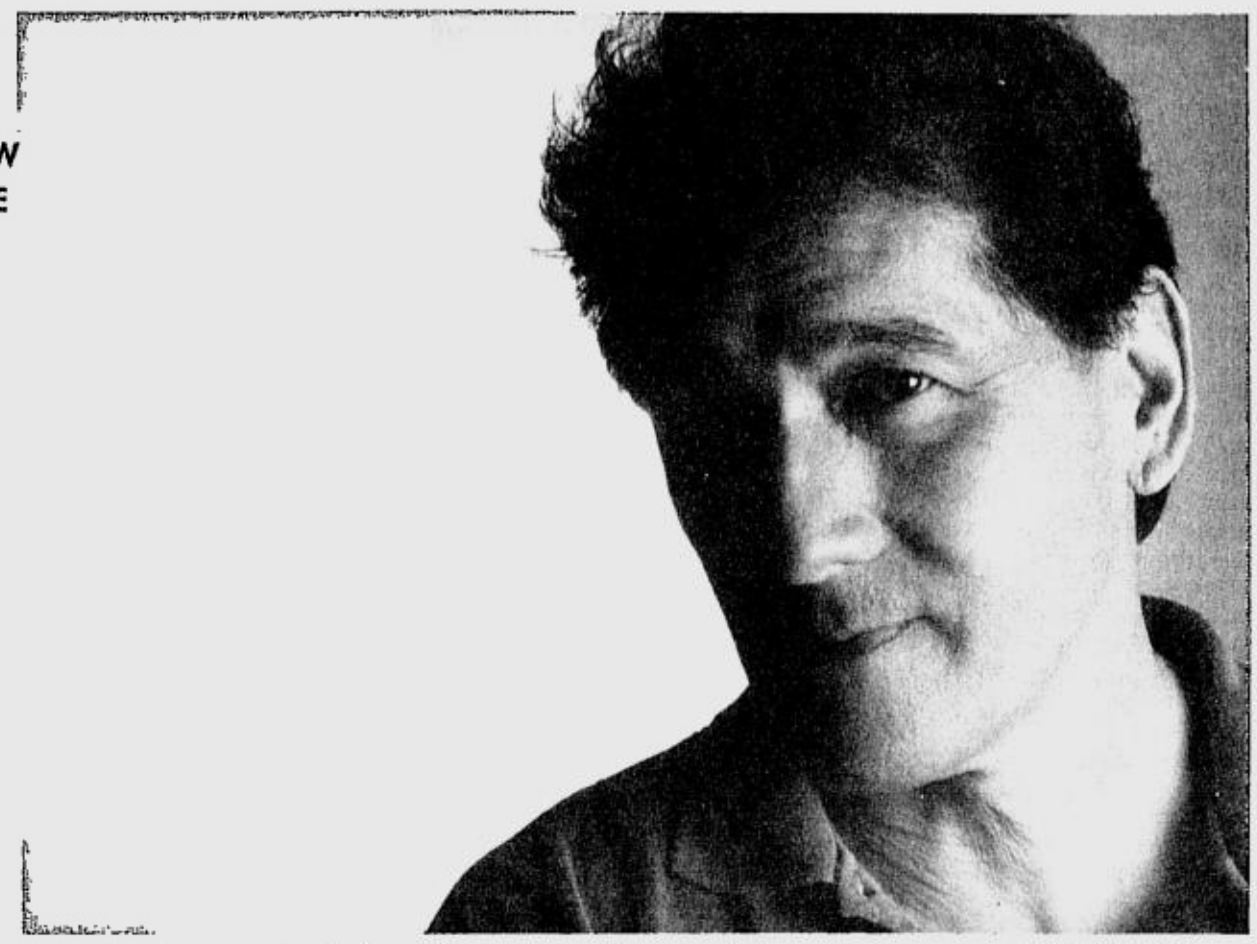
Jimmy, also a top matinee idol, plays Charlie, the playful twin.

Together, they are searching for a mysterious swordsman whose disappearance brought bad luck to their village.

"The Amazing Twins" is widely watched all over Asia, North America and other parts of the world.

Mr. M and his 'magic' detector

SHOW TIME



MANAHAN. "I guess I'm talented"
PHOTO BY JIM PAREDES

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

A GOOGLE search on Johnny Manahan will yield thousands of matches. It's hard sifting through that volume of info, but almost every other entry mentions the TV director as having mentored or discovered popular young show biz stars.

"Mr. M," as he is fondly known, has been in show business for 31 years. Many stars have risen or fallen, or they continue to shine, and he has worked with most of them in one form or another, through changing eras and the ever-shifting nature of the industry. Many Pinoy stars can be connected to him by six degrees or less.

Manahan has directed variety shows, sitcoms, films, concerts, beauty pageants, and hybrids of two or more of the above (this is Philippine entertainment, after all). The man towers at approximately six feet, but there is not a hint of intimidation his height might pose, at least during this interview.

He currently directs "ASAP Mania," "Masayang Tanghali Bayan," "Klasmeyts" and "Bida," and heads ABS-CBN's Talent Center.

"When I was doing 'Palibhasa Lalake,' I was the 'naughty' director," he says. "When I was doing 'Abangan ang Susunod na Kabanata,' I was the 'socially conscious' director. And when I did 'Ang TV', I was the 'kiddie' director.

"So I guess I'm talented," he adds jokingly. "I have to work. I have to earn money, so I have to do everything! When you're a director, you should be able to do that, all sorts of ways to entertain people."

Self-satisfaction

He claims he landed the job by accident, after studying art history and architecture many years ago, but has adapted accordingly.

"After a while," he says, "you enjoy doing all those things. I'd rather do Shakespeare, but nobody watches Shakespeare. I mean, Shakespeare in Filipino. But nobody watches that, so what do we do?"

He has done four movies, but prefers to concentrate on TV instead, for now. "Doing movies for me before was just, 'Okay, let's see what I can do.' I satisfied myself a little. I want to do something later, but I have to find a producer. The movie project is there, sort of, in my mind. But that can wait."

Manahan started with pre-martial law ABS-CBN, and transferred to Channels 9 and 13 to work on the children's show "Kaluskos Musmos" and the sitcom "Chicks to Chicks." He returned to ABS-CBN in 1986, which became a juggernaut network barely a year after its re-launch. There were many plans for new shows, but there was one big problem: There weren't any actors.

"The stars at the time were 'owned' by Mother Lily, Viva, Seiko," he says, "and they were always at the beck and call of these people. Freddie Garcia (then-EVP and general manager of ABS-CBN) one day said, 'We have to come up with our own stars.'"

Finding talents

The late director Lino Brocka was approached to help launch new talents in the "Discovery" project, but the responsibility was offered to Manahan after the acclaimed filmmaker's death. "I was asked to do that, concentrate on looking for people. So I was made head of that division."

But even before Talent Center was established, he was unofficially honing stars-in-the-making, including some actors from "Palibhasa...", the teen group Guwapings, and other rookie entertainers of the station.

"We just sort of winged it for a couple of years," he says. "Two years. I never saw myself handling talents. I think the most difficult thing is finding them. In our first audition in '92, we were novices."

The search yielded 5,000 aspiring entertainers.

"There was a riot," he recalls. "*Hindi namin alam ang gagawin.*"

Only a few were chosen, including Claudine Barretto, Jolina Magdangal, Victor Neri, and Angelu de Leon. They were placed in the daily "Ang TV" show, geared for kids and teens.

After 12 years, Talent Center is still going strong, according to Manahan, and the search process has been more organized. "We sort of mastered it," he says. "We have a system now. People go out and look, we have open auditions, you can bring anybody here any time of the day."

The veteran TV director notes the rareness of the spark, or what he calls "magic," but recognizes it when he sees it. "It's a feeling. *Parang may* second sense *na kami*. Anybody who walks in the room, *alam mo kaagad*. Not many people have that, the x-factor or whatever it is. I'm of the opinion that they're born, rather than trained. We train them, but if they don't have it, *hanggang doon na lang sila*."

He repeatedly advises the stable of young entertainers to keep fit and practice healthy lifestyles, and he always reminds them to keep positive attitudes.

Success also brings financial excesses and "a million relatives," Manahan says, and he has seen this happen countless times.

"I tell them to save, all the time," he shares.

In June 1998, ABS-CBN opened a high school accredited by the education department, the Distance Learning Center which offers flexible services for young talents with hectic show biz schedules.

"That came about because we realized a lot of these kids quit school just to work," says Manahan. "A lot of them are breadwinners. So *nakonsyensya kami. Sabi namin*, maybe there's a way of doing it. We give them a little learning while they work."

The Talent Center also hasn't slowed down in looking for and training in-house up-and-comers. "We have to do it almost constantly," he says. "Some of them will be stars, some of them will be supporting people, and some of them will never make it.

"The thing we tell them is this: Sure we have favorites. We favor people with talent. So if you think you have talent, we will really push you."

Docu on news shows rare TV footages

SHOW TIME

ABS-CBN today pays tribute to the men, women and events that have shaped the way we see the news when the network's Integrated News and Currents Affairs presents "Sa Mata ng Balita: 50 Taon ng Pamamahayag sa Telebisyon."

The documentary encapsulates some of the most unforgettable, remarkable and celebrated events of the last 50 years as captured on television news. Tracing the evolution of TV news and current affairs from being a mere source of information to becoming a tool for public service and a catalyst for change and nation-building, "Sa Mata ng Balita" pays tribute to the men and women who gathered, reported and delivered the news to the people over the past five decades.

Representing them are several generations of the country's most memorable news anchors: Henry Halasan, Frankie Evangelista, Bong Lapira, Harry Gasser, Tina Monzon-Palma, Angelo Castro Jr., Noli de Castro, Loren Legarda and Korina Sanchez.

Several months' worth of intensive research allowed "Sa Mata ng Balita" to feature rarely seen original TV footages of landmark historic events through the efforts of a behind-the-scenes staff that includes overall in charge of production Luchi Cruz-Valdez, executive producer/headwriter Angela Blardony Ureta, and director and cinematographer Dik Trofeo.

The first of two documentaries specially produced for ABS-CBN's 50th anniversary celebration, "Sa Mata ng Balita" airs right after "Ang Tanging Ina, the Series" tonight.

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SCREENING SCHEDULES
AYALA CENTER CEBU
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30
GLORIETTA 1
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
GLORIETTA 4
12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
GREENBELT 3
1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55, 11:15

REGULAR RUN BEGINS OCT. 22 IN ALL AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
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Heart Evangelista

John Lloyd Cruz
Bea Alonzo

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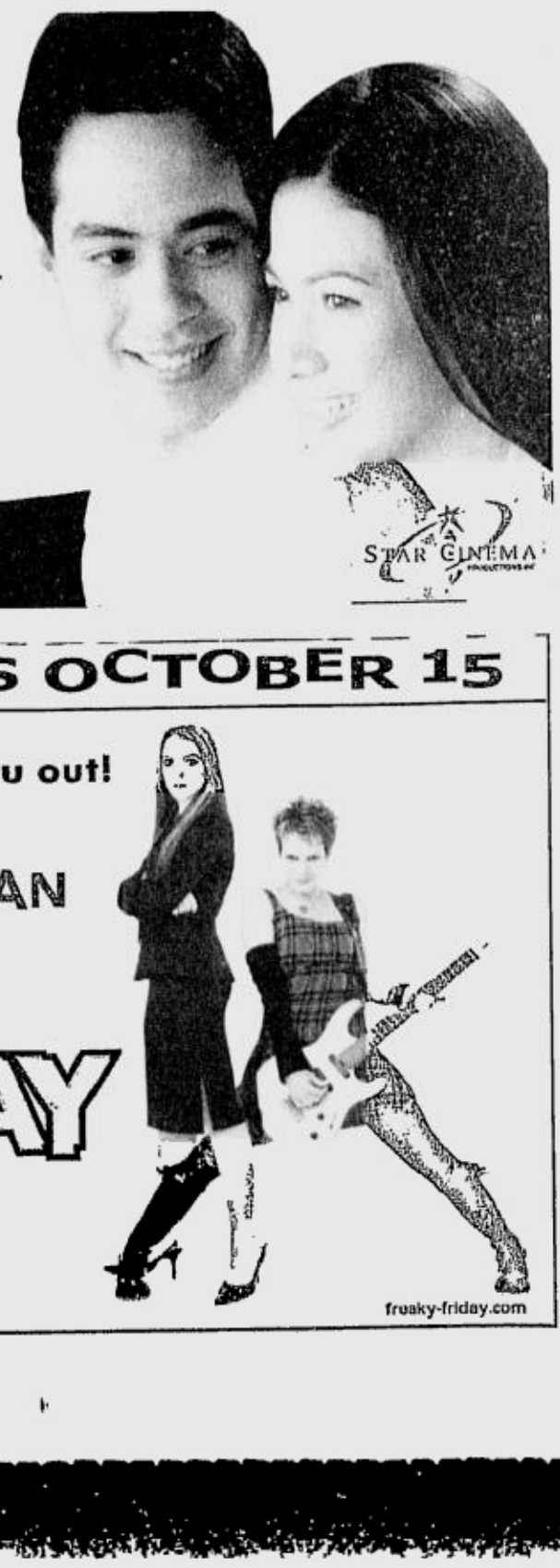
Directed by
John-D Lazatin & Don Cuaresma

Opens October 29, 2003



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turning into her mother.

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Kris and her station

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

I JUST saw **Kris Aquino** on evening TV jumping little steps of joy for **Troy Montero** who won P1 million on her game show. She was squeaking generous oh-my-gods and looking genuinely glad for him. The prized host of the biggest television network in the land was back on TV and on the go.

I also saw her on morning TV some two days ago, when she was asking guests: "Aren't there relationships you regret? When you think, *Sana* I never met *him na lang*?"

And it must've been just one morning before that when I again caught her on TV leading guests in an involved discussion of the word *pagsisinungaling*.

Like nothing ever happened.

Like everything was as before.

Like *pagsisinungaling* was not the one big word that had bogged down settlement negotiations between her and **Joey Marquez**. Like the lawyers Fortun had not insisted on having Joey appear on national TV to say, "*Hindi ka nagsinungaling*," unfortunately unacceptable to Joey or his lawyer or both. Until finally there was, "*Hindi kita inakusahang sinungaling*," fortunately acceptable all around.

In other words, *sinungaling* was the make-or-break word in the Kris-Joey settlement.

Yet—only eight days after that settlement was signed—there Kris was, mouthing the word, acting like it meant nothing to her. And her guests were mouthing it too, and also acting like it meant nothing to anybody.

AQUINO. Why is she saying these things?

PHOTO COURTESY OF YES! MAGAZINE

And when—just 17 days after their very very public split—Kris said to a guest: "Aren't there relationships you regret? When you think, *Sana* I never met him *na lang*?" methinks even the slowest among us will think the question was meant most of all for her.

Yet again we're all supposed to gaggle about like we didn't hear a thing. Or couldn't see the connection.

It's surreal.

Like the nine days never happened.

Nine days of being at the receiving end of Channel 2, which wrung us dry, pierced us with repeats of the footage of bedraggled daughter returning to pained mother, threw one crushing detail after another our way, saddling us with competing truths, and, quite simply, disrupting our lives.

And it passed it all off as NEWS.

That was what got everyone's goat.

For a while people have been coerced into giving entertainment programming more latitude, allowing it to carry more private, risqué, even embarrassing, stuff, they have drawn the line at news.

News is still something people expect will give them the information by which to make their choices, among others, about their leaders, the bureaucracies that aren't working, the services that aren't there, and the crimes that are.

But Channel 2—more recklessly than any other station, broadsheet, or tabloid in the country—just made regular, major news of the Kris-Joey split through those nine days.

Then, just like that, it stops. Doesn't explain itself. Doesn't say where all the drum rolls announcing battery and STD and new heroines are headed for. Doesn't turn its news and public affairs department upside down.

Doesn't apologize for its journalism or its taste.

No, it just swaggers all the way to the bank.

But it wants us, like lemmings, to just take its lead. Stop talking. Forget it. It didn't happen. Move on.

If anything should tell us that television *is* mind control, this is it.

But am I the only one feeling strange? Am I the only one feeling funny about this, plus the next days, being just another regular day for Kris?

She's a pro—no one doubts that any more. She doesn't have to keep proving it.

This is someone who just went through a harrowing experience. Whether she told the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but, one truth remains: She lost the man she loved, and maybe still does, someone she was ready to marry against all odds, someone who put the glow in her eyes. If that isn't passion, don't know what is.

Hers is not a small pain.

But even worse, she lost her man against the ugliest scenario.

Still worst, she lost him on national television.

All right, she brought it upon herself. She likes living her life before the cameras, she reaps what she sows. True. But right there, something's clearly wrong.

Because no one's telling her—certainly not the station that's still making money off her celebrity—that there is a life to be lived outside television.

Somewhere where there is silence.

Where the taking stock happens.

Where the heart clears itself.

Where the mind can finally hear its thoughts.

Where there is only the self.

As it is, things she said in her "TV Patrol" confession should be bothering those who love her: That she had no more career to go back to. That having STD would "destroy" her. That she was "damaged goods."

Where did that come from?

This is one very intelligent girl, a college graduate, a member of the mega-elite, is well-travelled, is surrounded not just by politicians but by artists. In other words, there is enough stimulus in her world to keep her thoughts above the common.

Why then is she saying these things?

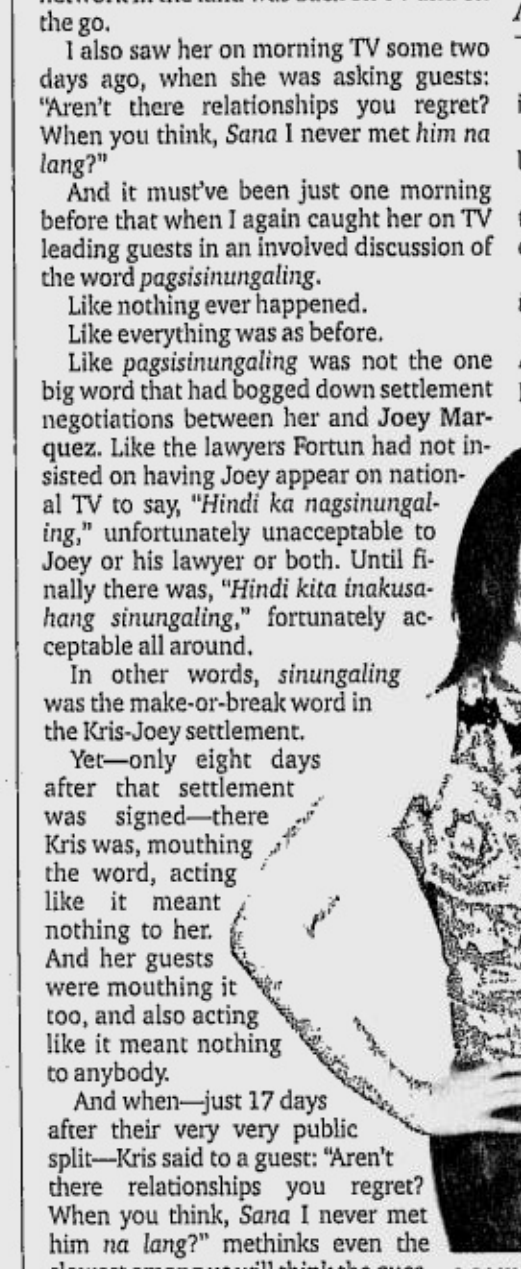
How should a woman's career be charted, if not by how she has performed? Why should a disease, even if sexually transmitted, define who a person is? And why should finding a man be circumscribed by any of this?

But when does Kris find time to think of these things?

While she's in Hong Kong, for Channel 2, interviewing **Dao Ming Si**?

DID YOU KNOW...

Young actor **Jake Roxas** was seen trying out his new Sony cell phone, which he had just taken out of its box, while he sat alone at a table at the Coffee Experience at the Alabang Town Center one Saturday afternoon.



CHAMP IN DUCKS

Francis Barcellano of this year's UAAP champion, the FEU Tamaraws, models a shirt by Ducks Unlimited, which has a pre-Christmas discount promo. Until Oct. 31, get a discount coupon worth P50 for every minimum net purchase of P500 worth of Ducks Unlimited products. The coupon will be redeemable on the next purchase. Coupons can be redeemed until Dec. 31. Ducks Unlimited stores are located at Glorietta 3 in Makati, Robinson's Place Ermita, Robinson's Galleria, Landmark, Shoppesville Greenhills, Ali Mall and Festival Mall Alabang.

New round of 'Sex' starts

THE NEW season of HBO's "Sex and the City" will debut on HBO on Oct. 14 at 10 p.m., with new episodes every Tuesday.

This season features eight episodes instead of the originally planned 13, so as to accommodate Sarah Jessica Parker's real-life pregnancy.

Despite the fewer episodes, HBO's "Sex and the City" still packs punches: Carrie (Parker) publishes a new book; Miranda (Cynthia Nixon) struggles to lose her baby weight; Samantha (Kim Cattrall) sorts out her feelings for her cheating ex, Richard; and Charlotte (Kristin Davis) tries to get on with her single life.

Carrie will also meet a cute new love interest in Jack Berger (Ron Livingston), whom she may scare away with her honest revelations about her past relationships.

This season's most outrageous moments include the fiercely independent Miranda calling on her ex, Steve, when her cat runs out with her baby's umbilical cord; Carrie stumbling in on Samantha who is helping a courier guy with his "package"; and Samantha arriving at Carrie's book party wearing a veil due to a botched chemical peel job.

For those of you who are still nursing a secret hope for a Big-Carrie reunion, catch Chris Noth as he returns near the end of the season.

HBO's "Sex and the City" has long been regarded as a pop-culture phenomenon, being the first cable series to win the Emmy for outstanding comedy and a show that struck a chord with many women all over the world.

"The movie would make us realize that beautiful graces in life come for free, only if we open our hearts."

- Marilou Diaz-Abaya
Director

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**3 single men + 1 single woman = all-out gulo at saya!
Hindi ka na mag-iisa dito sa bago mong komedi pamilya!**

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**Dream. Believe. Survive.
The first reality-based talent search on Philippine TV.**

Twin Hearts

Naniniwala ka ba'ng sa mundong ito ay may iisang pusong "kakambal" ng sa iyo? Ito ang dramang "soulmate" mo.

Lagot Ka... isusumbong kita

**Apat na pusong barako gagawing pusong mamon ng isang tao.
Lagot ka pag na-miss mo 'to.**

Kaya mga KAPUSO, just watch, celebrate and have a good time sa GMA! Iba talaga pag galing sa puso. GMA NETWORK

Sunday LIFESTYLE

READING

Guest Editor
Margarita L. Delgado
Nazaria B. Zobel

THE HABIT of reading is best cultivated in youth. Encouraged by the belief that literacy is all about creating a desire to read, we dare to dream that we can again be a nation of readers. Literacy can nurture the Filipino child's intellectual, ethical and social development and nurture us as a nation. The critical thinking skills of the Filipino child, developed through reading , can result in an empowered citizenry.

At Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation, we have developed a reading program that promotes the love and habit of reading among our public school children. We bring with us a 31-day reading activity, carefully evaluated storybooks and a highly creative training program for teachers to learn the most exciting and innovative reading strategies.

In the next few pages, may you all be inspired to discover and learn how to creatively develop and nurture the love for the printed word, especially among the younger generation. In your own way, whether at home, in the office or on the road, you can actually become a reading advocate! On special occasions, give books as gifts. Cuddle your child today and get lost in the pages of a good story. After all, reading transforms information into knowledge, and a well-read, highly knowledgeable citizenry produces a strong and enlightened nation.

WHAT'S INSIDE

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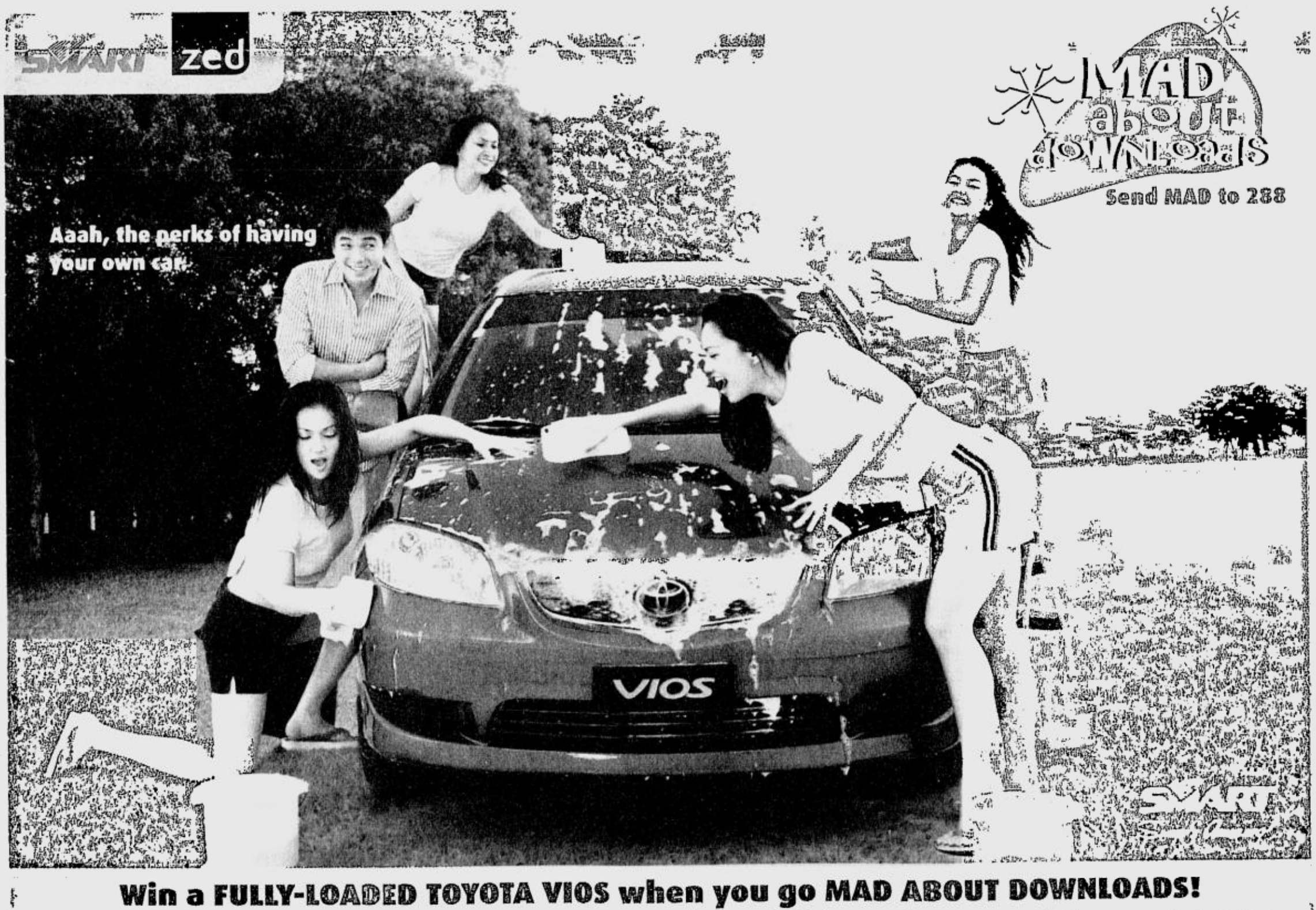

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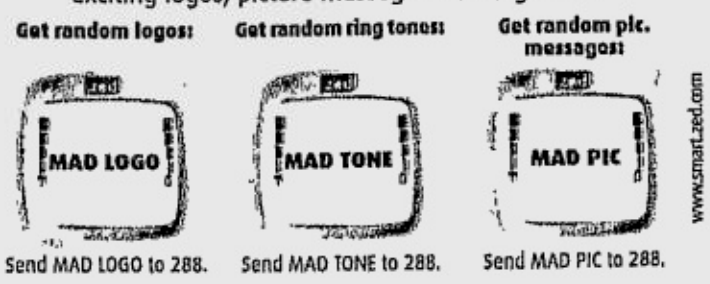
Once registered, you can get a chance to win by downloading exciting logos, picture messages and ringtones:



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For Toyota Vios inquiries please contact **Dalo Candelaria** in **Toyota Pasong Tamo** at **8938084.**

D2

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2003

Bienvenido Lumbera, book lover

LUMBERA with granddaughter Maxine
GERRY LEONARDO

By Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz
Contributor

DR. Bienvenido Lumbera, revered man of letters and 1993 Magsaysay Awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts, is a critic, teacher, poet and playwright—and a lover of the printed word. Thus, it comes as a jolt when he takes a hard look at books and reading and concedes that reading may be a lost art.

How did your love for reading start? What were the early influences in your life that promoted this?

In my youth in Lipa, there were no books. My parents died early and we grew up with my paternal grandmother. Whatever reading I did during those early years were *awits* and *corridos* borrowed from the housemaids.

These were pamphlets sold in churchyards, spread out in *bilaos*, costing 10 to 15 centavos each. There were weekly magazines like Liwayway and other magazines putting out literary materials. I grew up during the Japanese occupation and borrowed novels written in Tagalog in book form or those serialized in magazines.

But what I found most enjoyable was gathering around an aunt, listening to her read out chapter after chapter of the stories.

What books made such an impression on you as a child?

There really was no single book. But I remember reading the Bible and a catechism, presumably provided free of charge by Protestant missionaries. I also discovered an English picture dictionary from where I picked out words and used them out of context.

In fact, when I was in Grade 6, the teacher suspected that I did not write those compositions because I kept using words like "nightingale" and the "pusillanimous sun."

My colorful reading textbooks in grade school had stories about American heroes and blonde Americans.

Since we do not have public libraries, where did you get your books?

We belonged to the upper lower class of society, and the idea of buying a book was quite alien. There was just no money for that. Though my first reading experience came from *awits* and *corridos*, it made me curious about how adults lived and thought. It sustained my interest in literature because I discovered that I could know and participate emotionally in the lives of characters.

I purchased my very first book when I was in high school. My teacher took me to Manila to visit the Peco or Philippine Education Co. Bookstore. It was "Without Seeing the Dawn" by Steven Javellana. It was rather expensive, and I paid for it. It established once again the power of reading, for I felt the atrocities and the traumatic experiences of war portrayed in the novel.

My high school English teacher noticed my extraordinary interest in books and gave me books like "Ivanhoe," "Pride and Prejudice," etc., titles more serious than what the rest of the class were assigned to read for home reading. I devoured them, although I did not understand them until I went to college.

How have books shaped the person you are today?

I became convinced that to be a writer in English, I had to gather as much skill and information in writing in English. At UST where I went for college, I wanted to explore world literature and the universal in literature. I was also surprised that students spoke English not just in classrooms but also in the corridors. My loyalty to vernacular literature was strengthened because that was how and where I started.

What were some of your favorite books then?

When I read Dostoyevsky's "Crime and Punishment" and "Brothers Karamazov," I thought they were the greatest books ever written. When I read "Five Little Peppers and How They Grew," the story of orphaned children, I wept and was able to empathize because I was orphaned myself.

Why are today's youth not interested in reading? What are the deterrents to the reading habit? What did you observe regarding this in your many years of teaching?

When I was teaching college at the Ateneo in the '60s, there was still time to be devoted to reading. But over the decades, the attraction of movies, television and the computer became stronger.

The mode of perception has changed, from one that was print-oriented to the more visual, the more tactile. Television is a good, attractive alternative to reading because it offers much information about people and relationships. I don't agree that it is only through reading alone that one gets the information and the insights. Reading requires so much effort which would best be used in acquiring the same results from different sources.

Today's youth are learning so much, assimilating so much and have gained something I never had. We cannot turn back history...

But it is only reading a story or a poem or any other piece of literature that allows us to participate in the authorship of a literary work. It is a reality that individuals can claim as their own. There is an intimacy in reading that the visual arts cannot replicate, allowing every one to "own" those special images. There are far deeper insights only to be gained from reading.

Reading a story or any other piece of literature allows us to participate in the authorship of a literary work

Neni Sta. Romana Cruz is a multi-awarded children's book author. She dedicates her free time to turning public elementary school teachers into reading advocates.

At best, it is hoped that those interested in knowing further about topics and issues that electronic media may have initially exposed them to, will delve deeper and find the need to move to print.

You present a very bleak view of reading.

As long as the Philippine government continues to vacillate between the national language and the English language as the medium of instruction, we are fighting against the stream of history and are paddling upstream. Language is the key to national identity and we should promote the revival of reading in the vernacular.

Books are not easily accessible to the majority of the population. They are expensive to purchase with the limited disposable income of the average wage earner. And while there may be hometown libraries, these do not attract readers because they are often mere storage places for politicians' political platforms and other propaganda materials.

Neither do we have a brilliant track record for school systems which support reading and learning.

The kids find it difficult to understand what the joy of reading means. How can we soft-sell reading to them?

Get children to understand that reading a story or a poem makes you participate in the authorship of a literary work and the reality in the imagination that one can claim as his own. Teachers must help in letting kids discover this insight, this experience. Make literature come alive for the young by oral performances.

Will books and reading ever become passé?

No, but eventually there will be people who will specialize solely in printed books. And libraries will be the domain of individuals who wish to pursue literary inclinations and special areas of interest from fleeting topics gained from technology. Those intrigued by particular topics will remain in libraries.

What are your favorite books as an adult?

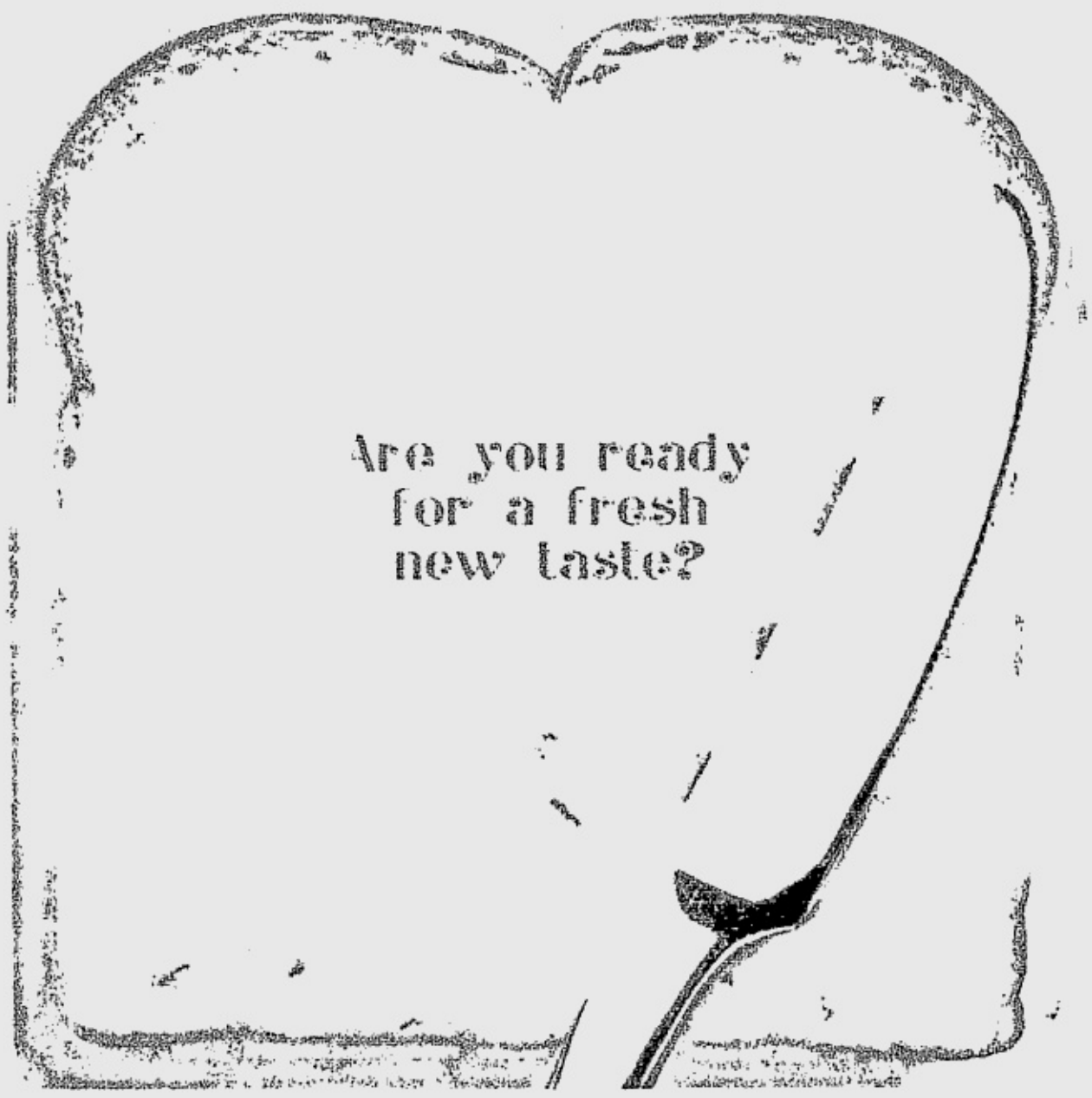
I still think Dostoyevsky is a great writer. A special place in my library is for the two books of Wilfred Owen, a British poet who wrote experimental war poetry.

What are you currently reading?

Isagani Cruz's new book of essays in Filipino, "Bukod na Bukod." Isagani (De La Salle professor and former DECS Undersecretary) was not only my phenomenal student at the Ateneo Graduate School for whom I gave an A+, but he was also the one responsible for the current Basic Education Curriculum which totally revises the way we teach our high school children to appreciate literature.

How did you encourage your children to love to read? What about Maxine, your granddaughter?

We bought them books, even going all the way to Dau in Pampanga to buy books of American families leaving. These were very good materials. But now with so many more books published for children in the Philippines, Maxine has a wider choice. She demands to be read to and it is her Lola Shayne who reads to her more religiously than I do.



CMMA 25

The Philippine Media in the last 25 years as seen through the eyes of the CMMA

Maalaala Mo Kaya

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation
2002 CMMA Hall of Fame Awardee

Maalaala Mo Kaya has been to date one of the longest running drama anthologies on Philippine television. The program never ceases to capture the attention of its viewers by featuring true-to-life stories of ordinary people with extraordinary experiences, as well as contemporary issues that are at times overlooked in our society today. Some of its episodes have been used by government, private and religious sectors as a tool for education and counseling.

A three-time CMMA awardee as Best Drama Series, *Maalaala Mo Kaya* attempts to portray in human drama the real life struggle against indemnities, which afflict the lives of people daily. It is the story and storytelling that tugs at the heart, that draws from the wellsprings of emotion--laughter, tears, joys, sorrow. And as with the Agony and Resurrection, *Maalaala Mo Kaya* offers its viewers a cathartic and inspiring experience of the human spirit's triumph in the end.

The generous sharing of life experiences by its letter senders has become the most important inspiration of the people behind *Maalaala Mo Kaya* to further the quality of its production through the years. It has also become a venue to showcase Philippine television's finest breed of actors, writers, and directors, some of which have won major recognitions here and abroad, including the Asian Television Awards.

Hosted by Charo Santos Concio for ABS-CBN Channel 2, *Maalaala Mo Kaya* in 2002 joined the distinct circle of CMMA Hall of Fame awardees, having won in 1995, 2000 and 2001.

It was a most fitting recognition for a T.V. program that has faithfully reached out to every person's heart--that place where the most dramatic and lasting change occurs.

CMMA 25 features significant achievements and milestones in Philippine media. Read more in the CMMA 25th anniversary Commemorative Book (coffee table format) to be published by the CMMA Foundation, Inc. For details, call the Secretariat at Tel. Nos. 8674026, 8924779, or 8121833.

There's a library near you

From page D8

Hours: Mon.-Frl., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Marikina Public Library
W. Paz Street, Sta. Elena, Marikina City
Tel. 9335712
Hours: Mon.-Frl., 8 a.m.-12 nn; 1-5 p.m.

Muntinlupa Library
2/F Contessa Bldg., Poblacion, Muntinlupa City
Tel. 8611122/23
Hours: Mon.-Frl., 8 a.m.-12 nn; 1-5 p.m.

Pasay Public Library
3/F Pasay City Hall, F.B. Harrison, Pasay City
Tel. 8316688
Hours: Mon.-Frl., 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

Taguig Public Library
3/F Tuktukan, Taguig
Hours: Mon.-Frl., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Malabon Public Library
Justice Compound, Catmon, Malabon
Tel. 2874885; 2886665
Hours: Mon.-Frl., 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Navotas Public Library
M. Naval Street, Sipac, Navotas
Tel: 2826233
Hours: Mon-Frl 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bulacan Museum, Library and Cultural Center
Provincial Capitol Compound, Malolos, Bulacan
Hours: Mon.-Frl., 8 a.m.-12 nn, 1-5 p.m.

Cavite City Library and Museum
corner R. Basa and R. Samonte Streets, San Roque, Cavite City 4100
Tel: (46) 431-3803; (46) 504-0002
Hours: Mon.-Frl., 8 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Jose P. Laurel Memorial Library
A. Mabini Avenue, Tanauan City, Batangas
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. daily

Teodoro M. Kalaw Memorial Library
CM Recto Ave., Lipa City
Tel. (043) 7566869
Hours: Mon.-Frl., 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bandila: The story of the Philippine Flag
Written by Merci Melchor
Illustrated by Auri Asuncion Yambao
Published by Tahanan Books for Young Readers

This book relives the historic events and battles that helped shape our flag, from the founding of the Katipunan to the "banner day" we honor today. Within these pages young readers will discover that the story of the Philippine Flag is, in truth, the riveting story of our nation.

Brothers Wu and the Good Luck Eel
Written by Fran Ng
Illustrated by Arnel Mirasol
Published by Tahanan Books for Young Readers

Brothers Min Pu and Wei Li are sent on an errand to deliver a basket of hand-sewn slippers. Their adventure turns into a disaster when their boat collides with a rock and springs a leak. What happens afterwards is the stuff of good stories.

A sampling of local children's books

The Black Kitten
Written by Natasha Vizcarra
Illustrated by Ferdinand Guevarra
Published by Adarna House in English and Filipino

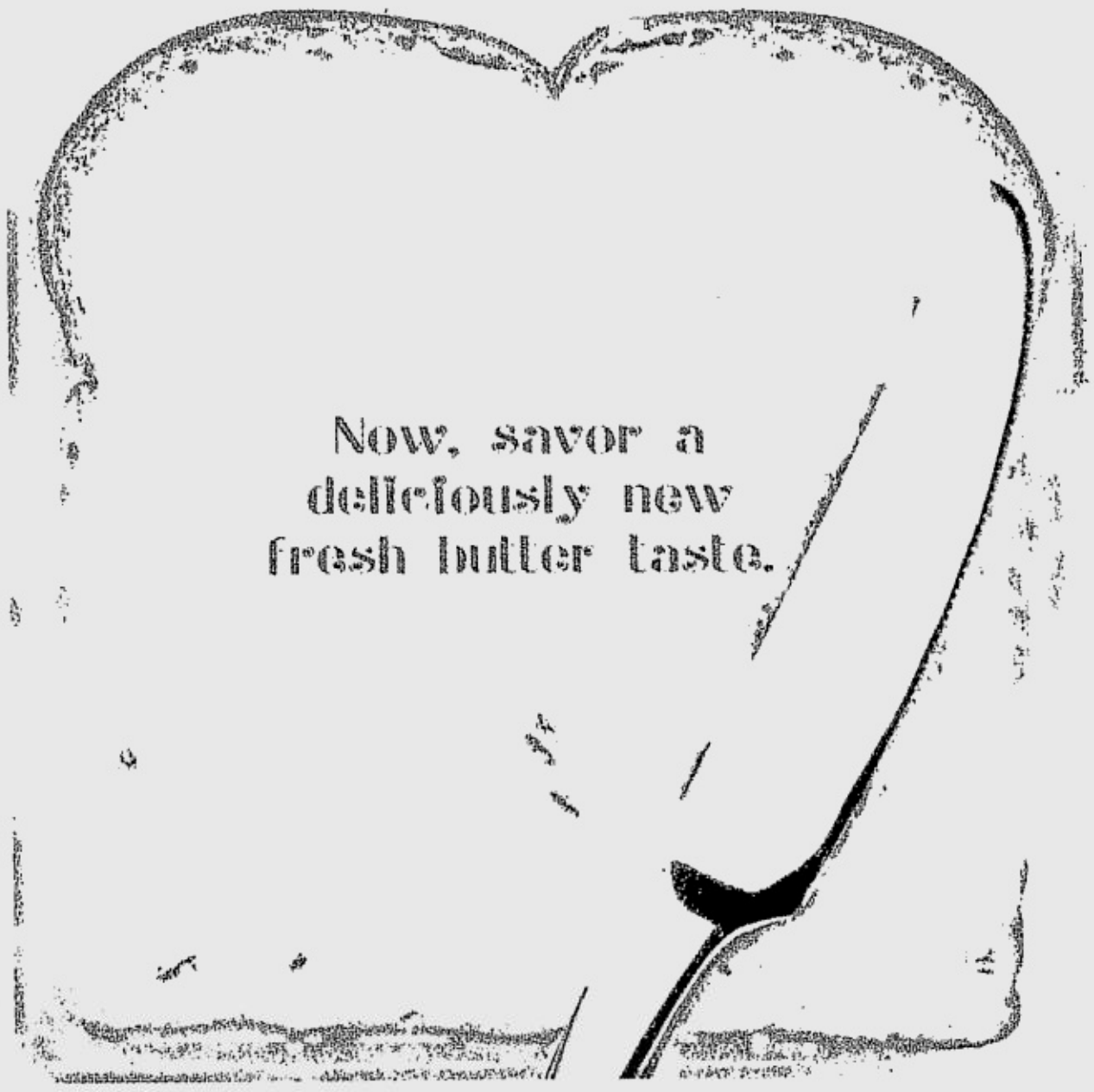
Imagine how sad Ignacia the kitten must feel when everyone shoos her away. She may be a black cat, but there are many things cats can do for people even if they're black.

Chenelyn! Chenelyn!
Written by Rhandee Garlitos
Illustrated by Liza Flores
Published by Adarna House in Filipino

Chenelyn is a house help that seems to do magic. One day she gets sick and the magic stops. What will the family do?

Xilef
Written by Augie Rivera
Illustrated by Beth Parrocha-Doctolero
Published by Adarna House, Inc. in English and Filipino

"Xilef" is the first Filipino children's story that helps develop a greater understanding and acceptance of dyslexic children.



A habit bred at home

Give your children a headstart in life by helping them to love books

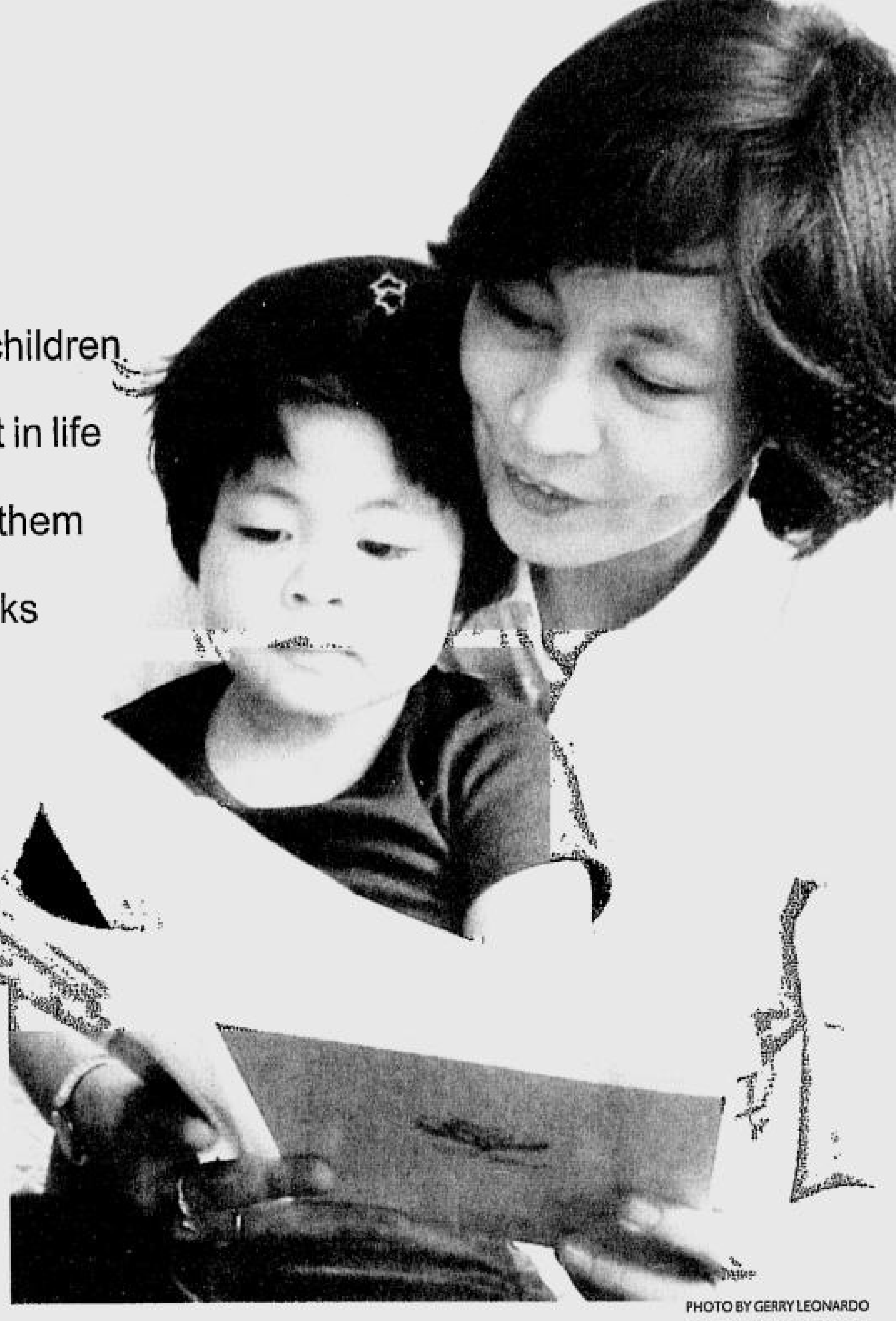


PHOTO BY GERRY LEONARDO

By Marge Macasaet-Barro
Contributor

WE'VE seen from experience that young students who enjoy reading do better than kids who are only forced to do so because of homework or a test. Kids who read develop curiosity, wonder, understanding and an open mind—all of which are crucial to learning.

Kids pick up habits by observing their immediate environment and the older people around them. If you'd like to make reading a habit in their lives, don't wait for the school to do it for you. Here are some tips:

At home

• **Set an example.** Let your children frequently see you reading and writing, even if it's just recipes, the newspaper, manuals or brochures. Point out interesting ads, photos and articles.

• **Ensure that there's something to read in every room.** The bathroom, of course, makes a great location for a mini-library. But even the kitchen can display those cereal boxes with fun activities at the back, so your child will be occupied during breakfast.

• **Keep a family calendar and update it regularly.** Encourage the whole family to write during special events and days, and put the writings in a highly visible area of the house.

• **Create a kids' reading corner** with a rug or rubber mats, bright light, a bean bag, lots of pillows, puppets and stuffed toys that can be used to act out stories, and of course, books.

• **Subscribe to a children's magazine** like K-Zone or WITCH, and give them the Junior Inquirer to read every Saturday to get them into the habit of reading periodicals.

Bonding experiences

• **Read aloud to your kids every day when they're young.** Separate a reading time just for you and your child and, after a couple of weeks, you'll see that no day is complete without this. When they're older, encourage them to read on their own and/or write in a diary before sleeping.

• **Do household lists together.** Ask a child to take down shopping, packing and to-do lists that you dictate. If you go grocery shopping, older children can be "list master," making sure that every item is in the cart before you go to the register.

• **Write messages and notes to each other.** Little ones will love a surprise message in their lunch boxes from mom and dad. When older kids go on retreat, write them a sincere and loving letter to read while they're away.

• **Keep a scrapbook, journal, or an idea book together.** Ask kids to write down captions for memorable photos, or clip a magazine headline that will go with the picture. Include Christmas and birthday wish lists, places you'd like to visit, possible names for a new pet.

• **Address, sign and mail greeting cards together.** Kids will learn the power of words in keeping people close to each other.

• **Play word games together.** If your children are video-game freaks, look for computer versions of word games like Scrabble and Boggle to get them interested.

• **As a treat, go to a bookstore and allow your kids to pick out any book of their choice.** Respect their preferences and don't force them to pick out something educational or values-related. Reading should be fun, first and foremost.

On the road

• **Always keep a children's book in your bag.** If you have older children, they'll probably enjoy magazines. When they start whining that they're bored, you'll have a handy solution.

• **When you're traveling, keep a family travel log.** Encourage your kids to write down the activities they did that day or people they met. In foreign locations, they can maintain a glossary of foreign words they've learned.

• **Sing songs, tell stories and play games during long car trips.** It's a surefire way to keep your kids from being bored.

• **Read maps with your kids and have them look for your destination.** Keep a map of the Philippines and/or a world map and ask them to put stickers in places they've visited.

• **Make a game of reading street and road signs.** Look for signs that begin with every letter of the alphabet or for stores with funny-sounding names.

Marge Macasaet-Barro is the executive director of Sa Aklat Sisikat Foundation, and a mother who religiously reads aloud to Aldo, Paqo and Laia.

Tips on a reader

- Set an example—read!
- Place books in every room.
- Create a reading corner or a mini-library.
- Subscribe to children's magazines.
- Read aloud to your kids every day.
- Write loving messages and notes to them.
- Address, sign and mail greeting cards together.
- Visit bookstores and libraries.
- Always keep a children's book in your bag.
- Read maps, sing songs, tell stories in the car.
- Play games out of reading road signs.
- Read the Junior Inquirer.

A guide to a child's bookshelf across the years

There is a book for every stage in your little one's life

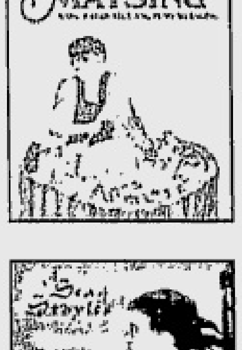
Infants (0-2 years old)

• It's never too early to expose your children to words. Before your baby even turns a year old, start reading stories and singing lullabies to him. It doesn't really matter what you say at this point; the lilting sound of your voice will stimulate the developing brain and also help her to recognize you.

• Since babies are attracted to bold, black-and-white patterns, opt for books with lots of stripes, dots and simple shapes that you can leave in the crib.

• Recommended books include "Where is Baby's Belly Button" by Karen Katz, "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" by Eric Carle and "Moo Baa La La La" by Sandra Boynton.

• Picture books and read-alouds from the local bookstores include "Bahay Kubo" with illustrations by Hermes Alegre, "Si Pagong at Si Matsing" by Danilo Consumido and illustrated by Wilfredo Pollarco and "Matandang Matabang Pusa" by Virgilio Almario and illustrated by Felix Mago Miguel.



Toddlers and pre-school children (3-5 years old)

• Books with chunky pages are easy to turn and virtually tear-proof. Cloth and plastic books are good, too.

• Children of this age want stories that are close to daily life, such as a trip to the store, going to *lolo* and *lola*, or the birth of a new baby. You can also introduce them to new characters and experiences, like riding on an airplane or train, various animals, counting numbers.

• Look for books that have lots of interesting detailed pictures around which your toddler can create her own stories.

Note: At this point, your child may not yet be ready for fairy tales and very fanciful yarns. Stories about a big bad wolf or a witch who eats children are probably too much for young minds to grasp and may simply create anxiety.

• Recommended books are "10 Apples Up on Top" by Dr. Seuss and "Classic Nursery Rhymes" published by Five Mile Press.

• Appropriate local children's books for this age include "Ang Itim na Kuting" by Natasha Vizcarra and illustrated by Ferdinand Guevara, "Alamat ng Ampalaya" by Augie Rivera and illustrated by Kora Albano, and "Tamales Day!" by Didith Tan Rodrigo and illustrated by Arnel Mirasol.

Younger school-age kids (6-8 years old)

• Children this age love role-playing. They're ballerinas, clowns, mommies, daddies, cartoon characters, cars, monsters. Buy them books about these characters to feed their imagination and help them pretend.

• Silly books will prove popular, especially those with lots of rhyming and repeating words that they can chant over and over.

• This might be a good time to purchase a children's dictionary, so that when your child stumbles over a new word, he'll be able to look up its meaning on his own.

• Some well-loved fairy tales may be appropriate now, but do choose them with care as many will continue to be upsetting to young children.

• Recommended books are "Where the Wild Things Are" by Maurice Sendak, "The Magic Tree House" series by Mary Pope Osborne and "The 13 Clocks" by James Thurber.

• Independent readers would love "Sandosenang Kuya" by Russell Molina and illustrated by Hubert Fucio, "May Mga Lihim Kami ni Ingkong" by Luis Gatmaitan and illustrated by Beth Parrocha-Doctolero, and "Two Friends, One World" by Ramon C. Sunico and illustrated by Joanne de Leon.

Older school-age kids (9-12 years old)

• In general, older grade school children love stories with magic, adventure, humor and friendship. Age-appropriate stories about your family's religious faith will be well-loved, too. How-to books may also work for kids who are into crafts, science experiments, sports, hobbies.

• This age group will start displaying strong preferences for certain types of stories, so allow your children to choose what they want to read.

• School will start to get more difficult, so consider getting a young people's encyclopedia to help them with homework. If you have a computer at home, you can get an encyclopedia in CD-ROM, as well as many educational games and multimedia learning resources.

• A frequent concern is "non-literary" material such as comics, book serials, and teen romances. Although you are the best judge of what's appropriate, if the book isn't harmful or vulgar, it may be good to allow anything that will help a child find pleasure in reading.

• It would be great to have a children's bible as part of your home library.

• Recommended books are "Chronicles of Narnia" by CS Lewis, "Tintin Comics" by Herge, Ramona Series and "Henry Huggins Series" by Beverly Cleary and classics by Jules Verne and Frances Hodgson Burnett.

• Locally published books appropriate at this stage include "The Best of Lola Basyang" by Severino Reyes and translated by Gilda Cordero-Fernando with illustrations by Albert Gamos, "A Sea of Stories: Tales from Sulu" by Carla Pacis and illustrated by Ruben de Jesus, Jason Moss, Marcus Nada and Pepper Roxas, and "The Flying Friar: Patron Saints and Their Amazing Lives" by Joseph V. Landy, SJ and illustrated by Frances C. Alcaraz.

How books shaped me

A Ramon Magsaysay awardee and co-founder of today's Philippine center for investigative journalism tells us her story

By Sheila S. Coronel
Contributor

MY MOTHER once told me that I was named after a character in a book. It must have been some forgettable novel she had read when she was a teenager, because she could not even remember what the title was.

In some ways, that was a blessing, and I consider myself fortunate that my mother, who was an English teacher, did not give me some heavyweight literary name like Simone or Desdemona or, God forbid, Heathcliff.

My mother loved books, and it was she who taught me how to read when I was about four or five. I had dropped out of kindergarten because one of my classmates, who was much bigger than I, had pinched me in the thigh.

I was, to begin with, a sickly child, so I ended up reading at home, by myself. Since then, reading has always been for me something close to magical. In my childhood, books were refuge and escape. Even now, if I have even just half a day free to read, it is pure bliss. When I am old, I would like to do little else but read.

Both my parents read voraciously. My father was an insomniac, and he read to put himself to sleep. But since he preferred crime and detective stories, he couldn't put a book down until he found out whodunit.

He read one crime novel a night (he loved Perry Mason, who was a lawyer like he was), so I knew that if I woke up at some ungodly hour, I would find him reading. Somehow, for some reason, I found that reassuring.

My best memories of my childhood have to do with reading—curled up in the windowsill of my grandmother's house, under the mango trees or by the sea, listening to the sound of waves. My fondest recollections of my parents' life together have always been those of my father reading out loud from a book to my mother.

My father, unlike my mother, was obsessive about books. My mother would read a book, leave it lying around and eventually misplace it or give it away. My father, on the other hand, had his books covered in plastic, neatly arranged on shelves, catalogued and stamped with his name. He scoured bookstores, second-hand shops and auctions for books. He once bought nearly the entire library of a lawyer who had died, so we had these big, hardbound tomes of obscure legal rulings that I doubt anybody ever used.

> When my parents broke up and my father left our house, we knew he would be gone for good because he sent for his books

The saddest thing, he once told me, is for someone to die and his books are sold to strangers after he is gone.

Inseparable

My father and his books were inseparable. Up to his death, he kept five slim, red-leather bound volumes of "Effective Public Speaking," which he had won in a declamation contest in his youth. He knew where each and every book was placed and he spent hours arranging and rearranging the volumes on his shelves.

So when my parents' marriage broke up, and my father left our house, we knew he would be gone for good because he sent for his books. Some men carted them away in a truck. It was the saddest thing.

Even when I was already grown up and working, my father gave me books—and dresses—as presents. In the 1980s, our political differences grew deeper (he was lawyering for military men, for one thing, and I was hanging out with anti-Marcos activists). We argued a lot, with neither giving an inch.

"Truth is without color, without shade," he once wrote to me in the inside page of a book he sent me in 1983. "You may not find it in the minds of men but a speck of it is surely hidden in their hearts."

It was, I knew, his way of saying that I should try to understand him and his work, to be less critical in my judgment of him. The truth was, I understood him more than he ever knew. I could read him as well as any book. And I think he read me just as well.

My father had a heart attack three days after his 60th birthday, on the same day that my book, a collection of magazine pieces I had written, was to be launched.

I waited for him that whole night and was disappointed that he didn't show up. I was later told that he had readied his best and newest suit (he was very vain about his clothes) but had to be rushed to the hospital instead.

He died the following day, with me and my siblings by his side. I was holding his hand when he breathed his last. He was laid out in the same white suit he was to have worn to the launch. When his body was cremated, I threw a copy of my book in the fire.

That was 10 years ago. Both my parents are gone now, but their books have been left behind. The heavy law books are with my brother. Some of the rest are with me—an eclectic collection of biographies, literary classics, crime thrillers and joke books.

They are very reassuring to have around. I can sense my parents' presence in them, and sometimes when I am alone with only a book for company, I feel that my father and my mother are there, too, indulging in the simplest and grandest of pleasures—reading.

Sheila Coronel was recently named a Ramon Magsaysay awardee for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts for "her leading a groundbreaking collaborative effort to develop investigative journalism as a critical component of democratic discourse in the Philippines." She is a founder and currently the executive director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism.

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DESIGNWORKS

Make your own book in 4 easy steps

Why not write a story and put together your own book?

By Fran Ng
Contributor

ARE you having another lazy Sunday afternoon? You're done with homework and only cartoon reruns and show biz *chismis* are showing on TV. What can you do? Well, you can pick up a book to read. Or, hey, why not write one yourself? J.K. Rowling created "Harry Potter," and Carolyn Keene invented "Nancy Drew." Who'll be the character to fly out of your imagination? Here's how you can make your own book.

What's needed:

Before you begin make sure you have the following supplies on hand that can be bought from any school supplies store.

- 6 sheets of bond paper
- 2 pieces of cardboard
- stapler
- puncher
- pair of scissors
- crayons and markers
- old magazines and newspapers
- author's ID picture

1 Put your pages together.

Writing on a blank notebook is one good way to get your ideas flowing. But binding your own book by hand is even better! You'll be inspired to write in it because you worked hard to make it. Also, you're more likely to finish what you write if you're filling up a very slim book. You won't want to leave your story hanging if there's only one more page to go. Besides, a 12-page picture book is definitely something to be proud of.

How to make your book: Get some cardboard and put six sheets of bond paper over it. Remember, they should all be the same size. Fold all the sheets in half so that the board forms a front and back cover. Now all you need to do is fasten the pages together. Try some of these suggestions:

To staple, spread the pages open with the cover on top. Lay the sheets on a thick rug and staple along the crease of the fold. Make sure you don't staple on a bare wooden floor because it might stick! Turn over the stapled pages and carefully push the staples inward.

Or use a puncher to punch two holes near the spine of your book. Thread a length of ribbon or string through the holes and tie together to fasten.

Can you think of other kinds of paper to use for your book? What about gift wrapper or even aluminum foil? Are there other ways you can think of to bind your book together? Experiment and have fun.

2 Write now.

Your book is now ready to store your very own stories. Actually, you can fill it with all sorts of stuff! Try out some of these ideas:

A poem. You can make your poem funny or serious, rhyming or not. To help you along, try out this pattern:

Line 1: A thing, place or person
Line 2: Two adjectives to describe what's in line 1
Line 3: Three verbs ending in -ing to show line 1 in action
Line 4: Write down a short phrase that further describes your topic

For example:
Ocean
Glassy, blue
Twinkling, foaming, whispering
Hiding treasures deep.

Write a story. Judy Blume, the author of many children's books, suggests a fun way to imagine your story: Write a book report on the story you plan to write. Describe your characters, the plot and setting. This way you have a story before you actually write it. John Steptoe, the writer of "Daddy Is a Monster... Sometimes," has another suggestion: Write about how an irritating sibling turns you into a monster, and describe the monster you become. Now that should be scary!

Write your autobiography. Make several short essays all about you. Ask your parents to tell you the story of how you were born. Try to remember your very first day in kindergarten. You can also explain how you got your name and what it means. Or make lots of lists: Create a page listing your 15 happiest memories and another page with your 10 favorite books. Then explain why you liked reading them.

Write your family history. Ask your parents, aunts, uncles and grandparents stuff like, "Where did you grow up and what was it like? What nickname did you have as a kid? What did you and your friends like to do? What was your favorite subject in school? How did you meet your husband or wife? What advice would you have for me?" You can even make a family tree!

3 Picture it.

After writing your work, jazz it up with pictures. You can also create your book the other way round. Start a story by making pictures first. Save the words for later.

Use photos or found objects. Find an interesting picture in a magazine and write about it. Or make a collage. Cut out different pictures from magazines and postcards. Scrounge for movie tickets or old greeting cards. Stick them on the pages and weave a story around them.

Sketch your character. A drawing can also help you visualize the lead character of your book. You can invent strange creatures, like a spotted zebra or a pig who can fly. What do you think will happen to them? Or if you have normal characters in mind, get to know them by drawing their bedrooms. What's hanging on the walls? What's under the bed? What's in the closet? Draw lots of details.

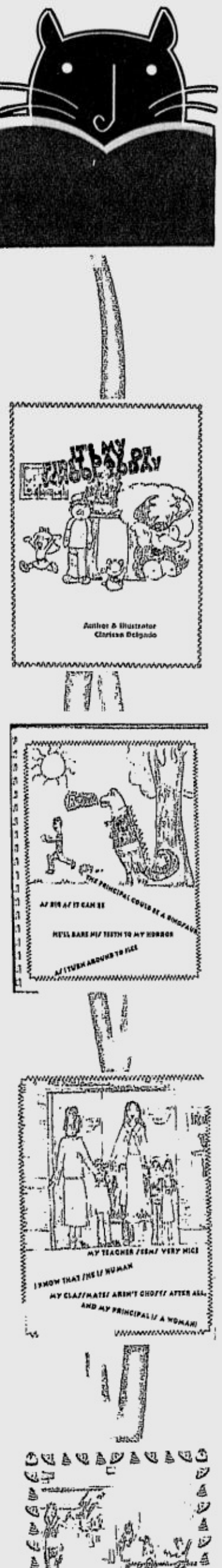
Make comics. Draw your own cartoons or cut out your favorite ones from magazines. Then make them talk. What will happen, for example, if Nemo were to bump into Sponge Bob in the ocean? What would they say to each other?

4 Put finishing touches.

You're almost done! Before you make photocopies of your book to sell to your fans, put the final touches. Think of a title and design a great cover. Draw the most important image of your book on it or cut out pictures from a magazine. Write your name as author. Make a dedication on the inside back cover. On the back cover, put a short summary of the book and make space for "about the author." Stick your ID photo and describe yourself.

Now you've got yourself a new book to read. Best of all, you wrote it yourself!

Fran Kilayko Ng has taught English at the Ateneo and has been a fellow at the UP Creative Writing workshop and the National Writers Workshop in Dumaguete.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY CLARISSA L. DELGADO

Shrines to a love affair with books

Books, bookstores and libraries will never become obsolete

By Pam Pastor

FILIPINOS who have a passion for reading have a lot of options these days, thanks largely to the country's bookstores.

Book lovers who want to own what they read have to go elsewhere for their needs—the bookstores.

National Bookstore. National Bookstore remains the biggest chain of bookshops in the country. This bookstore has become a household name not only as a source of books but school supplies as well. Starting as a stall in Escolta before the Japanese invasion, National with over 57 branches nationwide today has indeed come a long way, .

National Bookstore offers the Laking National Loyalty Card, which offers points in exchange for purchases. Accumulated points may later on be used to claim free gifts and receive discounts on selected items.

Goodwill Bookstore. Goodwill Bookstore, which started in 1938, may safely be counted as the second largest chain, with 10 branches nationwide. Although people looking for the newest foreign book titles would rarely find them in this store, the place offers other facilities.

Its main store in Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, not only has Internet stations to answer the online needs of people, but also houses Café Literati, which has become a place for book discussions, poetry reading and workshops.

PowerBooks, which is currently managed by Maximo Gabriel Licauco, the grandson of Socorro Ramos, who started National Bookstore, first opened in 1996. Now it has four branches—Arnaiz Ave., Makati City, Alabang Town Center, Megamall and Glorietta 3.

PowerBooks is known for having the newest titles on the shelves and a wide range of choices for voracious readers. It gained even more popularity for encouraging shoppers to leisurely browse through the books in their stores. The different branches have special areas for activities like lectures, demonstrations, book launches, discussions and poetry readings. This store also allows customers to order books from the United States through their branches.

PowerBooks offers two kinds of Power Cards—the Blue Power Card, which is a discount card, and the Yellow Powercard, which serves both as a credit card and a discount card.

Fully Booked. Fully Booked at the Power Plant mall was known as Page One before it changed owners. It has remained a popular choice for its wide selection of books and for having the freshest titles available on their shelves.

Fully Booked stocks up on British literature—a genre that is becoming more and more in demand with Filipinos but has remained sparse in other bookstores.

Not all book lovers can shop at Fully Booked, though, as prices are considerably steep, with some paperbacks going for as high as P700.

Discount book shops

Bookworms on a budget need not fret as discount stores have a lot to offer, too.

Booksale. Owned by Visual Mix Inc., Booksale opened its first branch at the Makati Cinema Square in 1981. Twenty-two years and over forty branches later, it still remains a favorite for readers with a taste for bargains.

A visit to Booksale is like a scavenger hunt. Those with enough patience know that looking through what seems like endless shelves of books would pay off when you find a title you have long been looking for.

All the books sold in Booksale are imported, except for the Tagalog romance novels that are some of the store's bestsellers. Most of the books are pre-owned, a few are new. Bestsellers go for as low as P60 in this store.

Books for Less. This store, which has branches in Korben Place, Roces Ave., QC; Caltex Commonwealth Avenue; Pearl Drive, Ortigas Center and Centrum II Valero St., Makati, is another bargain bookstore worth visiting.

Although prices are a bit higher than those of Booksale's, this store's layout is more organized, with books separated into different categories—business, computer, young adult, biographies, best sellers, etc. People looking for hardcover editions of their favorite books can try their luck in Books For Less. Their extensive stock of children's books is impressive, too.

Browsing through this store is made easier by the plastic chairs that you can drag along with you to the different sections. Shoppers at the Roces Ave. branch may even relax and enjoy refreshments from Café Papemelroti, which is just one level below the store, while browsing through books.

Books for Less also offers a discount card and notifies its mailing list members about store updates. People who spend at least P200 at Books for Less are given a free drink at Café Papemelroti.

Pallets Discount Bookstore, SM South Mall in Las Piñas, is a "warehouse" of children's books, cookbooks, science reference books, dictionaries and books for the family. It provides book lovers with an efficient, comprehensive avenue to access reading and educational materials.

All books are brand new at this book surplus shop that's supported by loyal foreign suppliers and corporate partners. Products vary from storybooks to educational books; from activity and fun books to toy books; from science stories to encyclopedias; from inspirational books to home and family books.

Books are priced competitively at an average of P150-P200 per book. This is enough to convince customers that they are purchasing imported books at a low price. Primary research indicates that the target market is price sensitive. Books on sale can go as low as P30 a book.

Other stores

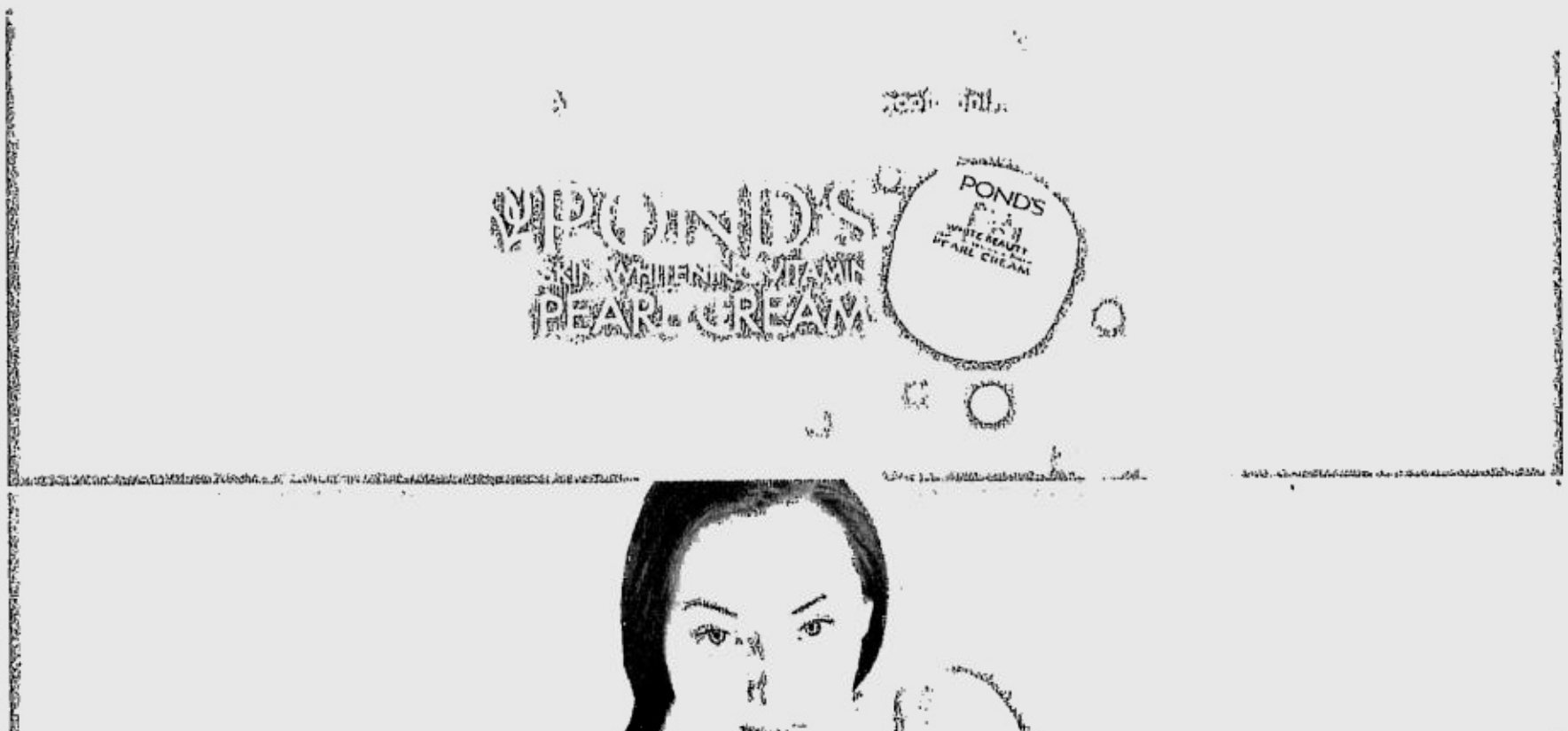
The list of bookstores all over the country is much too long to print here, among them **Bibliarch, Book Wagon, Diplomat, Merriam Webster, Rex, Dymocks.**

In a time of riveting television shows, e-books, Internet sources and other forms of media that take people away from reading, the bookselling industry really has become a more competitive den. No wonder the different bookstores have come up with varied ways of luring new customers and holding on to the old ones.

Die-hard netheads like to believe that there will come a time when everything will be digital—including books. But as long as there are passionate book lovers who relish the smell of new books and will not exchange the rush they feel at every turn of the page, books, bookstores and libraries will never become obsolete. Unlike people in other countries, however, few Filipinos actually go to libraries to read for pleasure. *(For a guide to public libraries, see p. D8.)*

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer.com.ph.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ



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Reading rooms: Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; non-reading rooms: Mon-Fri 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fee: P50

Chinben See Memorial Library
Ando corner Cabildo Streets, Intramuros, Manila
Tel. 5276083/6085; 5266796
Hours: Mon.-Sat., 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Fees: P50; P30 for students

Manila City Public Library
2/F Sining Kayumanggi Bldg., Mehan Garden, Manila
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Manila-San Francisco Friendship Library
Alvarez Street, Sta. Cruz, Manila
Tel. 7119840

San Nicolas Public Library
corner San Fernando and Madrid Streets, Binondo, Manila
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Tel. 7420627
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Tel. 5634312
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Makati Public Library
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Tel. 8999071
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Fee: P10 for the library ID that is good for one year

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PDI Bldg., Chino Roces Ave. corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati
Hours: Mon. and Fri., 1-5 p.m.

Lopez Memorial Museum
G/F Benpres Bldg., Exchange Road corner Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Tel. 6312417/2425
Hours: Tues.-Sat., 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m., 1-5 p.m.
Fees: P15 for adults; P10 for children

Pasig Public Library
Plaza Rizal, Pasig City
Tel. 6409082; 5280630
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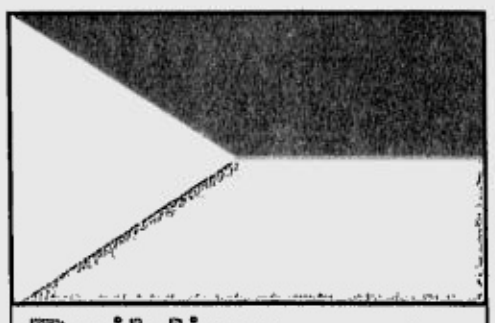

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3. Upon submission of a duly filled-up Globe Prepaid International Roaming Request Form and photocopy of the airline ticket and/or tour package voucher, one (1) Globe Prepaid X-treme Memory SIM (for Non-Globe Prepaid subscribers) or one (1) P300 Call & Text Card (for existing Globe Prepaid Subscribers) will be released by authorized personnel within the travel agency.
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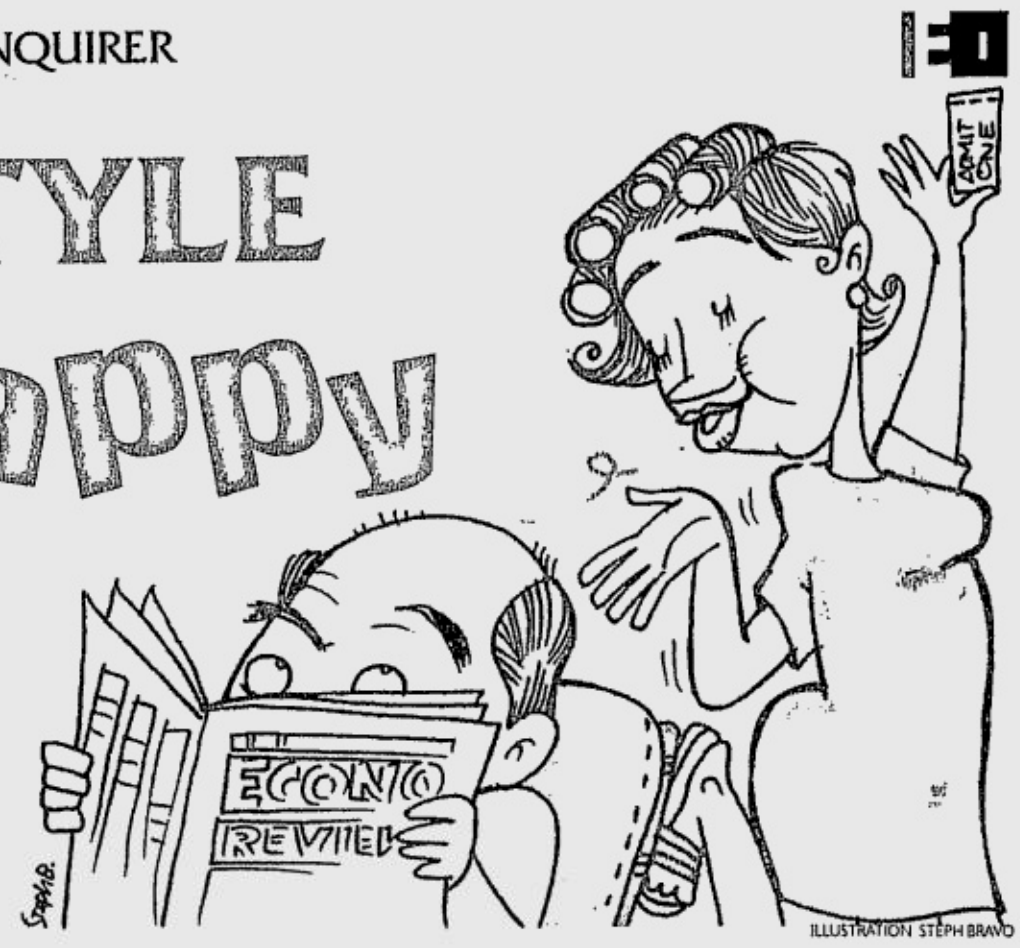


ILLUSTRATION STEPH BRAVO

Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

GOING out again? My husband asked, looking up disinterestedly from the "Economic Review," because I had, for many months now, been going to a flurry of plays, concerts and fashion shows, lectures, art exhibits and other gigs. Yes, I am seeing a Lorca play directed by Jose Estrella, I said. (Jose is a girl by the way).

He wasn't about to say no, first because I wasn't asking, or maybe it was finally dawning on him what a cultural desert my younger days had been within the confines of a conventional marriage. Because once, in a burst of happiness, I had held his face, looking straight into his eyes and said, Thank you. This cultural hustle-bustle is what I longed to be into all my life—this is its accumulation. Go! he said, slapping my fat fanny.

What a relief not to have to dissemble, as when one was younger and more attractive, about where one was going, and whom with—pretend my fast and furious women's libber friend was some sober nun, that the foreign fellow I was closing a book deal with was a deadbeat when he was oozing with sex appeal, that all of my men friends were gay (sorry), that I was going here when I was really going there. Now it is honesty time and such a relief to have one's mate accept the truth at last. That I want to live! Not just in the house but all over the place!

Wives of my generation were mostly repressed. To curb one's preferences was considered a great virtue. I remember ten years into my marriage I had asked Erwin, a writer-painter, to do a mural in our bathroom. Hubby agreed, as long as it was done while he was away at office and wouldn't be disturbed. One day a week, thereafter, a ladder would be brought into the bathroom from which perch Erwin would paint. The maid served him sumptuous *meriendas*. So fearful was I of being criticized that I never once entered the bathroom while Erwin was painting to behold the work-in-progress. And it was only recently, when I accidentally bumped into Erwin and his gang (Danny, Sonny, Pete and Mara, Ding and Tes) at the book fair and we repaired to Tia Maria for a rambunctious round of beer that we could at last laugh at the fate of that bathroom mural.

You see, what Erwin painted on our immaculate conjugal wall were three nudes—two males and a female, complete with boobs and pubic hair. My husband had a pained expression each time he had to shower with the trio looking on. It was the '60s after all. Faithful me one day took some paint thinner and, with a sponge, gently blurred all the sex organs. I never got to pay Erwin for the mural because after the neutering he never came back to finish the painting. And that was what we noisily drank to, cracking up with laughter, 40 long years later. Art and life never end.

Becoming human

I used to ask myself, when do men and women stop being the forbidden opposite sex and simply become human beings? At what time of life is a couple allowed to slip out of a mashed potato identity to be enjoyed as unique and separate individuals? I smile because I still receive greeting cards from old male friends signed "Bob and Linda" or "Caloy and Josephine" when I have neither met nor have the vaguest care who "Linda" and "Josephine" are. Or when, requesting a contact number on the spot from a family friend, he scribbles his wife's name in as well: Beth and Jerry 0917... Amusing.

Maybe in the next lifetime I'd like to be exclusively Elo and Gilda. Like *sago at gulaman, mangga't suman.* But for now let him be just him, and me, me. Twin hearts only when we choose to be. *Masyado kang moderno!* I can hear my mother saying. That was in the late '60s and somehow it's still not old hat.

I remember the first time after my marriage that a writer friend, Greg, came to visit. (He had never been a suitor). I just had a baby. In the *sala* we talked about the Palanca Awards and other literary matters. My husband refused to join. After Greg left, he said, So, is this how it's going to be? Your old boyfriends visiting you still? It sounded like a death knell. I knew what it meant. Henceforward no male would darken our threshold who was not a mutual friend (since we belonged to opposite worlds we had none of those). I felt like the mosquito trapped in the fridge when I slammed the door, wishing it a nice winter.

Considering what a lovely time I had been having, the winters of my discontent are over. Through the years my husband and I had moved closer to the type of marriage we wanted ours to be. We had relinquished many fears, and with them control of each others' lives. Last night he opted to eat a doughnut that he had squished chocolate syrup on and watch golf on TV as usual instead of joining us for a rich cultural evening. I did not criticize his junky meal nor the eternal program he was watching. I went on to dinner with my best buddy, 80-year old Teddy, and my daughter Wendy, in a trellis-covered café. Later Wendy went home and we joined Nic T, my other best friend Manny, Babeth and Royston, who is negotiating to make a movie out of "Luna, An Aswang Romance."

The Lorca play, which was about a butterfly and a beetle, was magnificent—a school production that outclassed many others in niftier venues. Sometime in between Manny got a text message about a trunk show (15 costumes on five top models) at Sanctum in Intramuros. We decided to see that too. It was Kate Torralba's first fashion show in that charming, teeny-weeny place. There was guitar-playing, poetry reading, an Indian belly dance and an opera number. Kate brought the house down with her keyboard playing and singing and the dresses. Her glamorous friends were there to assist—Barbie to smile and Myrza to cue the models. Later we bought some of Kate's collection off boxes on the

HAPPY/ E2

Groundbreaking books launched by UP Press

THE UNIVERSITY of the Philippines Press, chosen Publisher of the Year by the Manila Critics' Circle, has released "Ang Pag-aaral sa Wika" by Consuelo Paz, Viveca Hernandez and Irma Peneyra and "Lemlunay: Mga Tula sa Tatlong Wika" by Herminio S. Beltran.

Both books were launched earlier this month at the "UP Press Great Book Launch" at the National Book Fair in Megamall.

"Ang Pag-aaral sa Wika" is the first introduction to Linguistics written in Filipino, and is designed to explain in simple, accessible language a discipline which is highly theoretical and abstract.

It also seeks to enable readers to understand how language is structured and how it functions in daily life. Illustrations and examples are taken not only from Filipino but from other Philippine languages, which makes the book particularly reader-friendly.

"Lemlunay" is an unusal volume of poetry written in three languages-English, Filipino and Iluko. This is Beltran's second tri-lingual book.

The first, "Bayambang," was published more than 10 years ago by Kalikasan Press.

Dr. Paz, Dr. Hernandez, and Dr. Peneyra are prof essors of Linguistics at the UP Diliman. Paz has published extensively on the subject of the Filipino language as the country's lingua franca.

The descriptive study of the Bangued-Ilocano language by Hernandez, and the grammatical sketch of the Tausug language by Peneyra are pioneering works.

Beltran is currently head of the Literature Committee of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and director of the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Literature Department.

NCCA holds literature conference in Subic

THE SPECIALISTS' Conference on Literature and Aesthetics of the Committee on Literary Arts of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts will take place on Nov. 12-14 at the Subic Foreign Language Center, Subic, Olongapo.

Speakers at the conference include Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera, Dr. Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo, Dr. Florentino Hornedo, Dr. Rosario Lucero, Prof. Vim Nadera, Dr. J. Neil Garcia, Dr. Lilia Santiago, Dr. Erlinda Alburo, Dr. Zenaida French, Dr. Macario Tiu, Dr. Cecilia Nava, Prof. Romeo Dizon, Prof. Christine Ortega, Dr. Jaime An Lim and Dr. Joi Barrios.

Discussions in the three-day conference will revolve around theory and dimensions of aesthetics in the national and regional literatures of the country.

Call (045) 5996037 and (045) 5992794, fax (053) 3258789 or e-mail juliet_mallari@yahoo.com or humadapnon@yahoo.com.

Happy...

From page E1

sidewalk. (That was charming too).

Pockets of creativity

Whenever I am depressed by the overwhelming problems of the nation, I remember the tiny Intramuros bar, the UP theater's butterfly play, Republic of Malate's off-beat shows, an antiques-books-ukay-ukay-coffee shop-bar called A Crowded Place in UP, original QC galleries like Green Papaya (a converted driveway) and an even tinier place in Mandaluyong featuring miniature artworks using hair, blood, silk, thread, even a lipstick (carved into a Venus de Milo). Alternative places, pockets bursting with creativity, 10 years ahead of their time. I conjure memories of a breathtaking Douglas Nierras' ballet called "Mother of God," of Bob Feleo and Gerry Leonardo leading a covey of intense students in sculpting a pantheon of Philippine gods, and I know divine imagination is here with us, and we cannot die.

Never in younger married years could I have gotten a night's pass to go anywhere! What a lot of art I missed being the sheltered wife and mother. But one thing I have found out, it's never too late for anything. It is always the right time. And always a better time for having waited. If I had insisted on doing my thing earlier I would have had a busted marriage and the family I treasure would have gone down the drain.

Like old couples do whose children have their own families and their own outings, my husband and I eat out together often. And we talk and talk and talk. Once it was about Mike Arroyo's "I can't imagine life without GMA" quote which was the headline that day. But my husband himself had ante-dated that statement, saying exactly the same thing in our anniversary rites two years ago! *Kayong mga kaliwete*, I said, *pare-pareho ang sinasabi*. And we laughed. It's a good time. A happy time.

Eating together or alone is no longer an issue. We enjoy both. I used to feel guilty (though he didn't) about wanting to dine alone once in a while. But it also freaked me out if some social butterfly friend spotted me eating in a nice restaurant by my lonesome. If it's an advancement I've learned not to bury my nose in a book, I order a glass of wine instead watching the world go by and waving gaily when I'm spotted.

Husbands and wives argue a lot about what movie to see or not to see. Until I discovered the unique joy of watching a movie only I like, alone. Better than wasting so much time coordinating with friends. (Choose a seat near the aisle or beside a couple necking. Transfer to another seat the moment a doubtful character sits next to you).

Anti-alone pals

What you have to hurdle though, when you choose to do some things separately, is the reaction of conservative friends. They always ask when they see you in the mall, *Sinong kasama mo? Nasaan si Elo?* (as if I had to be escorted to procure a pack of *hopia*). It used to irritate me having to explain that I was perfectly happy seeing a movie alone. Until a friend, who was watching a movie with her husband asked, (as I stumbled over their feet in the dark), the inevitable *Nag-iisa ka ba? Nasaan si* Elo? When I settled in the only empty seat beside my friend, she leaned over and whispered, How I envy your being able to go alone anywhere! Independence must have the longest growing pains.

My husband has had his dose of the *Nag-iisa-ka-ba?* business too. Once a friend and his family who had flown in from Davao walked into the restaurant right where he was relishing his oysters alone. They obviously couldn't believe he was alone. How dare he be! Their eyes roved all over the restaurant (they didn't look under the table though). Some friends are very understanding about everything except eating out alone, seeing a movie alone or buying *hopia* alone.

During a women's meeting recently, two of my freshly widowed friends talked about how, coming home from a concert and a long dinner afterwards, they had felt so liberated! They had been very devoted wives and loved their husbands extremely, they certainly deserved their freedom to gallivant. I couldn't help thinking how lucky I was that my husband was still beside me, breathing and red-blooded still, and I could roam about as freely as I desired. It took an eternity's wait to achieve (the universe's sense of time is a trifle skewed) but here it was at last, a little bit past our prime, to be sure, almost academic where some temptations were concerned, but a munificence nevertheless.

The bitter and tension filled I-let-him-do-what-he-wants, I'll-do-what-I-want of the middle years has evolved into a deep caring for what will make the other happy, whether it includes oneself or not, the fruit of having paid marriage its dues. It's finally time for oneself, to make up for things we've missed out on, to heal frustrations, to adventure a little, to grow as much as we can grow still.

I never thought I'd ever get over feeling oppressed. Or lonely. Or unhappy. It was a bumpy road. Recently, I read a US magazine article about a 92-year-old woman whose husband of 70 years had passed away. She would have to move to a nursery home. Her friends described the tiny room she would occupy including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on her window.

I love it, the old woman said enthusiastically. But you haven't seen the room yet, her friends interposed, just wait.

That doesn't have anything to do with it, she replied. Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like the room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged. It's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning.

When I read the piece I realized I had been doing that myself for several years now, visioning a happy day the moment I wake up. And it has always worked.

Should she leave her family and work abroad?

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

Since I got married seven years ago, I quit my job and devoted all my time to my family. We have never been able to afford a maid, so I've been doing all the housework and caring for our two children, a six-year-old girl and a two-year-old boy.

Lately, I noticed that I was being short-tempered with the kids. I want to get rid of that attitude but I don't know how.

Also, our oldest child will start going to school next year but we won't be able to afford the cost. That's why we decided that I should go back to my profession—nursing—and work abroad.

I know my husband will be able to take care of our children, but I also know that a mother's touch is very important to their upbringing. There's a good chance that I'll be accepted abroad, and that's an opportunity that one doesn't get everyday, but I feel guilty and insecure about all this. What should I do?

LYNN

Your dilemma is probably the reason for your short temper these days. In a way, you are angry that you are put in this situation, and because the children are with you all day and since they are a big reason why you might have to go abroad, you might tend to take out your anger and confusion on them.

But if blame is to be assigned, your children are the least deserving of it. In the first place, they didn't ask to be here. And if your husband has been doing his best, then we can't blame him either for your financial straits. And since you have always been a housewife, who could blame you for feeling bad now about having to bail your family out of this problem?

Since no one in your family is truly guilty, it is useless to assign blame or for you to be short-tempered with anyone.

You may send your oldest child to a public school and delay nursery school for your youngest. That would cost less. But if your husband's income doesn't improve in the next few years, you'd still feel the pinch later, especially when your children go to college. So, I think your decision to work abroad is a good one.

I'd ask you to reconsider though if your husband has a tendency towards or a history of infidelity, and if any of your children has a physical or emotional problem that requires close and constant parental attention.

But since you did not mention them, I assume they don't apply. So there's no big reason, other than your anxieties, not to take advantage of the opportunity to work aboard.

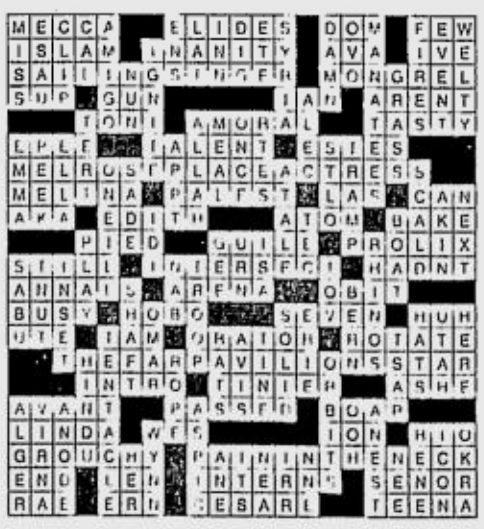
You can deal with the anxieties by having your parents stay in your place while you're away. They could help your husband look after the children, and they could keep tab on your husband's activities.

They probably have to do some housework, but only until you earn enough to hire a maid or two. If your parents can't live with the children, then you could send the children to them instead. However, you'd have to either get someone to keep watch on your husband or have great faith in his fidelity.

Also, look for an employment contract that will allow your family to join you abroad in the shortest time. Or, if you don't plan to have your family join you, make a good plan (and stick to it) to save and invest your earnings.

That will enable you to retire early and return to your husband and children, with enough money to send your kids through college.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



Seminar on flowers for Nov. 1

LEARN how to make floral arrangements for All Saint's Day and other occasions.

Ikenobo professor Serapion S. Metilla will conduct a hands-on seminar-workshop on various styles of floral art 1-6 p.m. Oct. 22-26 at Mett's Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank compound, corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Daily activities are: Day 1—Ikebana—Moribana and Shoka

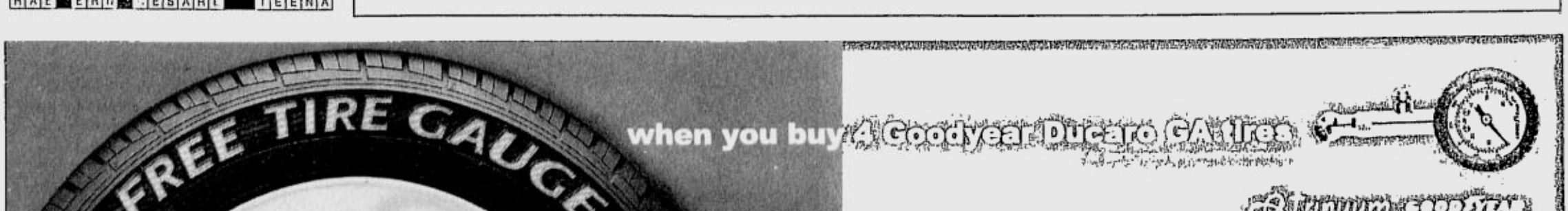
Day 2—Western style—all-around or one-sided and L shape

Day 3—Western style—crescent shape and Hogarth line; and flower shop operation

Day 4—Free styles, buffet centerpieces and garland making

Day 5—Corsage, bridal bouquet and wedding ensembles

All materials and tools will be provided. Snacks will be served. For details, call 9394593 or cell 0917-8321352.



Cory receives USP's Rizal Peace Award

CEBU CEBU

Jaime Picornell

THE UNIVERSITY of Southern Philippines (USP) marked Founder's Day in memory of the late **Don Agustin Jereza**, who established the school in 1927. Since 2000, the occasion has become more significant as the Rizal Peace Award is given by USP and its Institute for Peace and Values-Centered Leadership on the same day.

Previous recipients of the award were **Daisahu Ikeda** of Tokyo as leader of the greatest Buddhist lay congregation in the world, Supreme Court Chief Justice **Hilario Davide**, and Cebu's Archbishop, His Eminence **Ricardo Cardinal Vidal**. This year's awardee was former President **Cory Aquino**.

USP president **Ronald Duterte** (former Cebu City mayor) led Ms Aquino into the Eladio Villa Memorial Gym where the rites were held, with USP Museum curator **Lucio Pulmones** as master of ceremonies.

Highlights of the event were the reading of the award rationale by the Peace Institute executive director **Bonifacio Belen**, reading of the board resolution by university secretary **Jeffrey Villa**, presentation of the award by Hon. Duterte and **Vicente Villa**, chair of USP's board, and Ms Aquino's acceptance speech.

There was resounding applause for the former President's words of wisdom, and for the musical performance by the Strings of the Peace Philharmonic conducted by **Jeffrey Solares**. They rendered classical selections and also accompanied **Jamna Gicole** and **Elmer Cabahug** when they sang "The Prayer."

After the ceremony, President Cory toured USP's Rizaliana Museum at the nearby alumni hall. She was welcomed by **Odette de Dios Jereza**, wife of USP top executive **Oscar Jereza Jr.**, and enthusiastic Cory fans **Lisa Caro**, **Delia Villanueva**, **Rhea Domingo**, **Da Combate** and more.

Odette explained to President Cory how some of the national hero's clothes, papers, personal objects and other mementos were passed on to the Jereza family by descendants of one of **Jose Rizal**'s sisters who married into the clan. Replicas were painstakingly made, which went on a national tour in 1998. What President Cory saw and touched, though, were original.

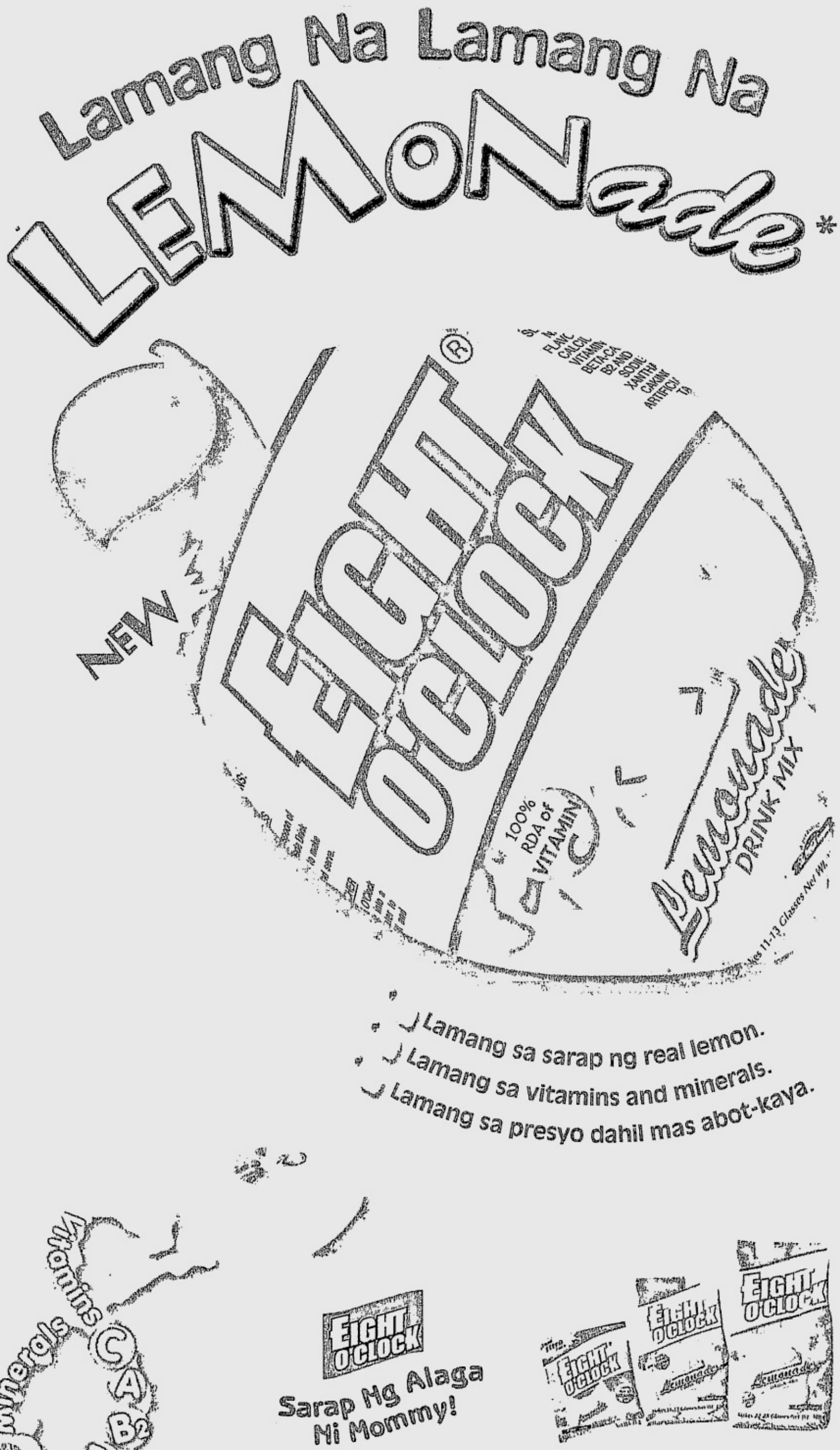
While in Cebu, President Cory took the time to visit the Carmelite Sisters who gave her sanctuary in February 1986 when the Marcos regime was toppled and she was flown from Cebu in a special plane to Manila to be proclaimed President.

A dinner was hosted by USP for President Cory at the Country Club. Don Vicente and **Doña Magdalena Villa** welcomed many prominent guests, among them Cebu City Vice Mayor **Michael Rama**, Rep. **Antonio Cuenco**, Dr. **Alicia Cabatingan**, lawyer **Eleuterio Ong Vaño** (USP alumni president), **Victor** and **Marilou Chiongbian**, and the ever gracious **Nonie Uy**, at whose home President Cory stayed on this visit.

FORMER President Corazon Aquino receives the Rizal Peace Award from University of Southern Philippines president Ronald Duterte.

ODETTE Jereza holds a box of postcards featuring Jose Rizal's "Mi Ultimo Adios."

Ron Duterte gave a four-and-a-half-minute speech that everyone attentively followed as he enumerated the five deadly sins (who needs seven?) that trouble present-day society: 1) Business without Morality, 2) Politics without Principle, 3) Wealth without Work, 4) Worship without Sacrifice and 5) Knowledge without Character.



Bookfair says 'Goodbye, Bacolod, hello Iloilo'

THE PHILIPPINE Bookfair (PBF) ends today the first leg of its Western Visayas run in Bacolod City, where the exhibit was mounted at the Robinsons Place Bacolod, Lacson Road, Mandalagan, Bacolod City.

It will continue the Western Visayas run Oct. 16-19 at Robinsons Place Iloilo, Quezon Street, Iloilo City.

The PBF's first run in Bacolod will bring to the city of smiles fresh titles and bestsellers. It will be its second visit to Iloilo. Last year, PBF drew a large crowd of students, teachers and book lovers on its first Iloilo visit. This year, it is bringing more new books, magazines, journals and encyclopedias.

The PBF aims to unite local and foreign publishers as it tries to promote reading and the exchange of ideas among teachers, writers and publishers. It offers a wide selection of books, especially textbooks, to people with limited or no access to them.

Participating in the Bacolod fair are A-Z Direct Marketing, AllScript Establishment, Asia/Pacific Circulation Exponents, Ateneo University Press, CD Books International, Creative Mind Books Center, F&J de Jesus, Goodwill Bookstore, Grolier Intenational, Linar Educational Materials, Megatexts Phil., Newsweek Inc., OMF Literature, Richwill Marketing/Bookstore, Sinag-Tala Publishers, TLFA Marketing Services, The Bookmark and University of the Philippines Press.

The publishers and distributors are expected to be also present in Iloilo.

The Philippine Bookfair—Western Visayas is organized by Primetrade Asia Inc. in cooperation with the Association of Philippine Booksellers, the Asian Catholic Publishers Inc., the Book Development Association of the Philippines and the Publishers' Representatives Organization of the Philippines.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

VIVID blue heart-shaped 5.04-karat diamond ring

The bold and the beautiful

By Kitty Go
Contributor

SOTHEBY'S upcoming Magnificent Jewels sale may as well be titled "The Bold and the Beautiful."

For starters, there's the gem to end all gems—the 56.03-karat diamond, the "crown jewel" for the auction house's 30th anniversary.

It is the biggest diamond of its kind (the perfect D-color and Internally Flawless kind) ever offered in Asia.

Expected to sell for $2.5 million, the diamond is the whitest of whites, and a Gubelin Gemlab-certified Type II, meaning, having little nitrogen, thus reflecting maximum light. It is a piece that would put Joan Rivers in a dilemma, "House or ring... house or ring?" Imelda Marcos, raise that paddle.

Try color

Colored stones in semiprecious forms such as amethyst, tourmaline, garnets and aquamarines may be accessible to every Virra Mall shopper.

But to the extremely rich and lucky few who may be tired of perfect whites, a selection of highly desirable and fashionable colored diamonds and gems may prove irresistible.

Outstanding among the colored diamonds are a vivid pink, pear-shaped fancy 3.28-karat diamond ring, and a radiant, cut fancy yellow 24.10-karat diamond pendant.

A particularly interesting piece to jewelry aficionados will be the vivid blue, heart-shaped 5.04-karat fancy diamond ring.

"Colored diamonds, at the end of the day, are really, really rare, and anything over five karats becomes even more desirable," explains Quek Chin Yeow, Sotheby's head of jewelry, China and South East Asia, about the current heightened interest in colored stones among Asians.

Rare is an untreated colored gem like a ruby or emerald, and the sale has a pair of Burmese ruby earrings in the highly desired "pigeon-blood" color.

Compare the 58.53-karat sapphire and diamond Nebuleuse ring by Chanel at approximately $500,000 with the flawless diamond of almost equal weight at $2.5 million. At the highest echelons of jewelry, there is a difference between fabulous and perfect, and the difference is $2 million.

There is also a jadeite bead necklace, strung with 65 vivid emerald-green jadeite beads. Jadeite beads are known to collectors as the most luxurious and most wasteful. During cutting, waste is high and the particles shaved in the process is of almost no value.

British style

Sotheby's Hong Kong has a tradition of collaborating with internationally renowned

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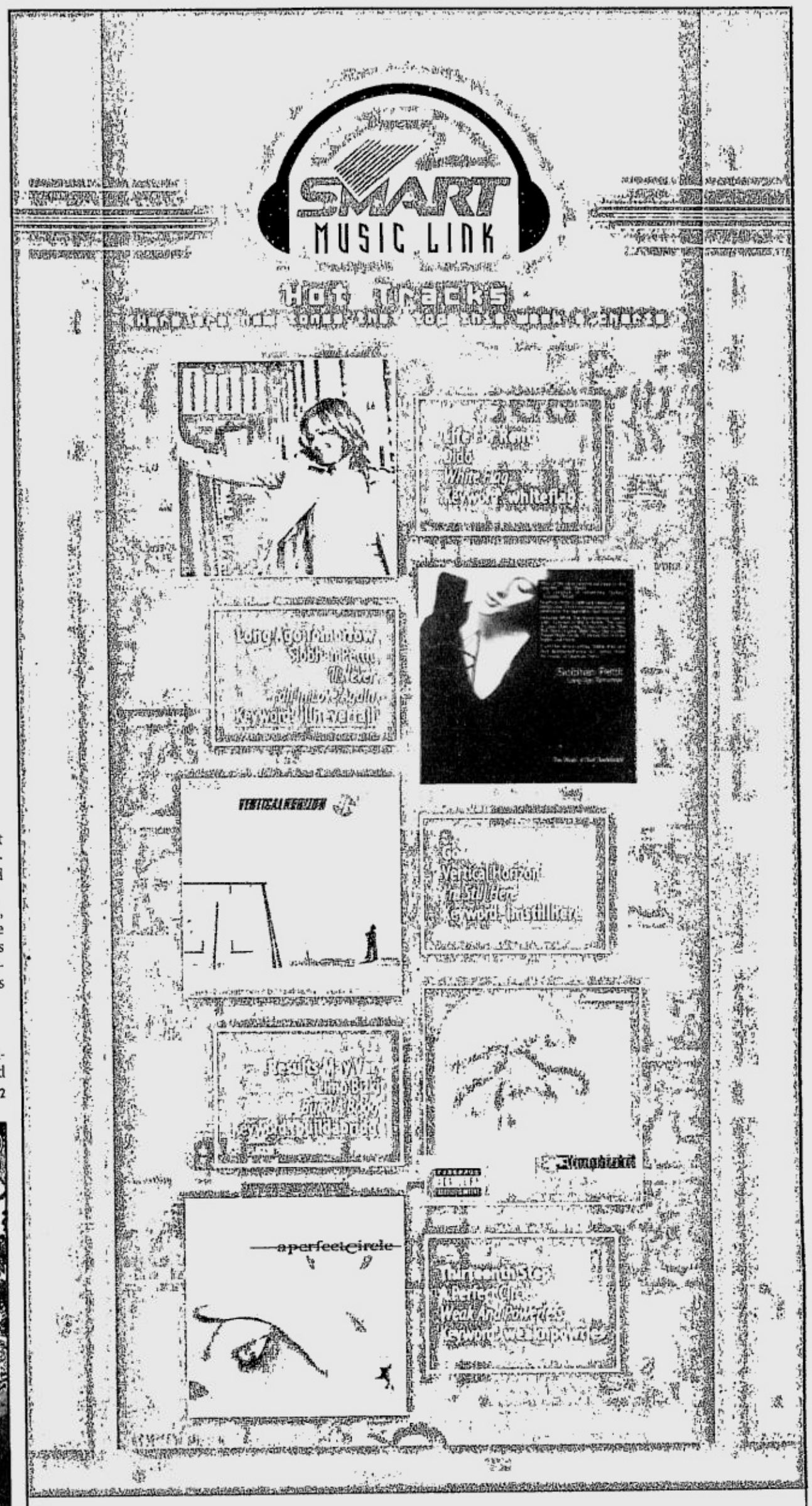

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Tower Records • Video • Books — Top 25 Albums of the Week — M music

1 Michael Bublé Michael Bublé	9 Bigotilyo Parokya Ni Edgar	18 The Piano Player Maksim
2 Playlist Paolo Santos	10 Metamorphosis Hilary Duff	19 Fantasy 4ever F4
3 Nyoy Volante with Mannos Nyoy Volante	11 Chasing Time II Martin Nievera	20 In Concert Josh Groban
4 Acoustic Night Live Various Artists keyword: *knocksmeoff*	12 Heaven Nina	21 Dans Mon Ile Lisa Ono
5 Heavier Things John Mayer	13 Forward John Trones	22 Bling Bling Various Artists keyword: *blowurmind*
6 Life For Rent Dido keyword: *whiteflag*	14 Dangerously In Love Beyoncé Knowles	23 Results May Vary Limp Bizkit keyword: *buildabridge* keyword: *eatualive*
7 A.K.A.: Almost Kinda Acoustic Various Artists	15 Sacred Love Sting keyword: *enduriove*	24 Josh Groban Josh Groban
8 Popstar: A Dream Come True Sarah Geronimo	16 Long Ago Tomorrow Siobhan Pettit keyword: *llnowrfall*	25 Go Vertical Horizon keyword: *imstillhere*
	17 Thirteenth Step A Perfect Circle keyword: *weaknpowrlss*	

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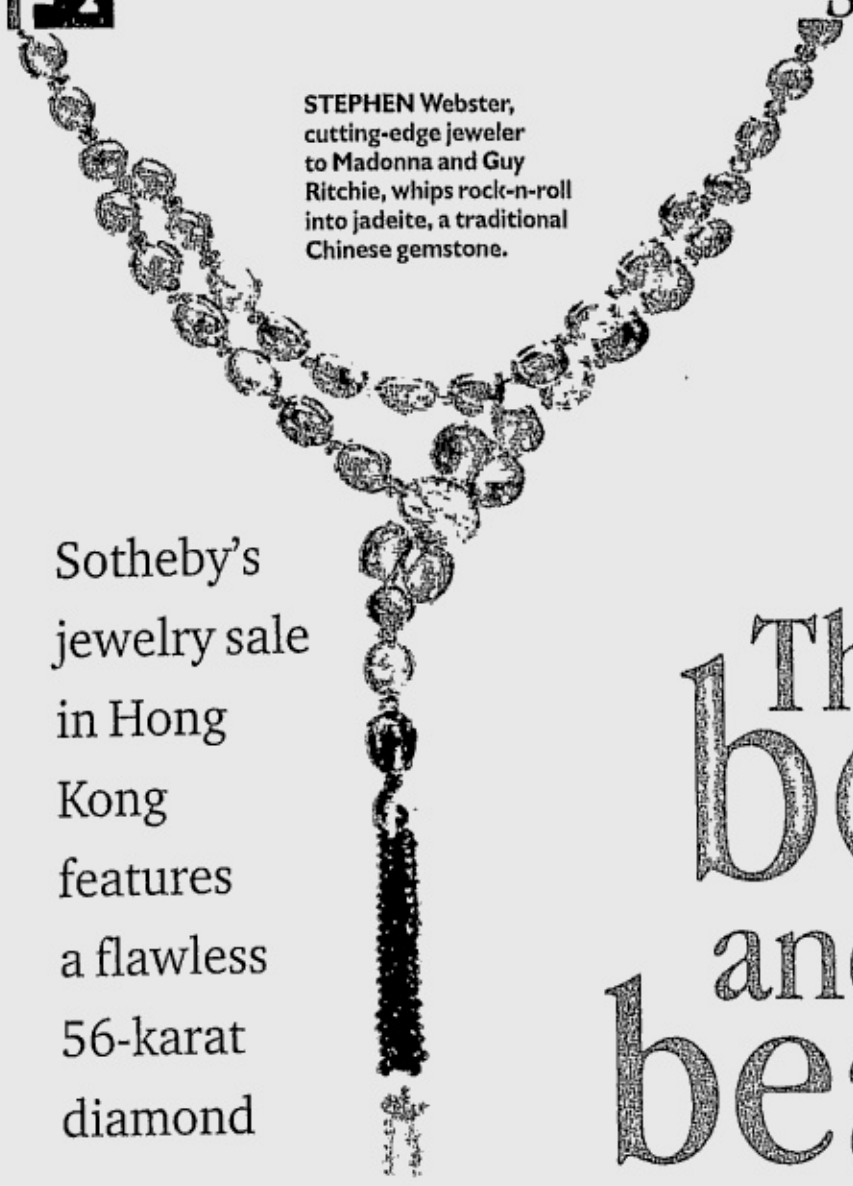
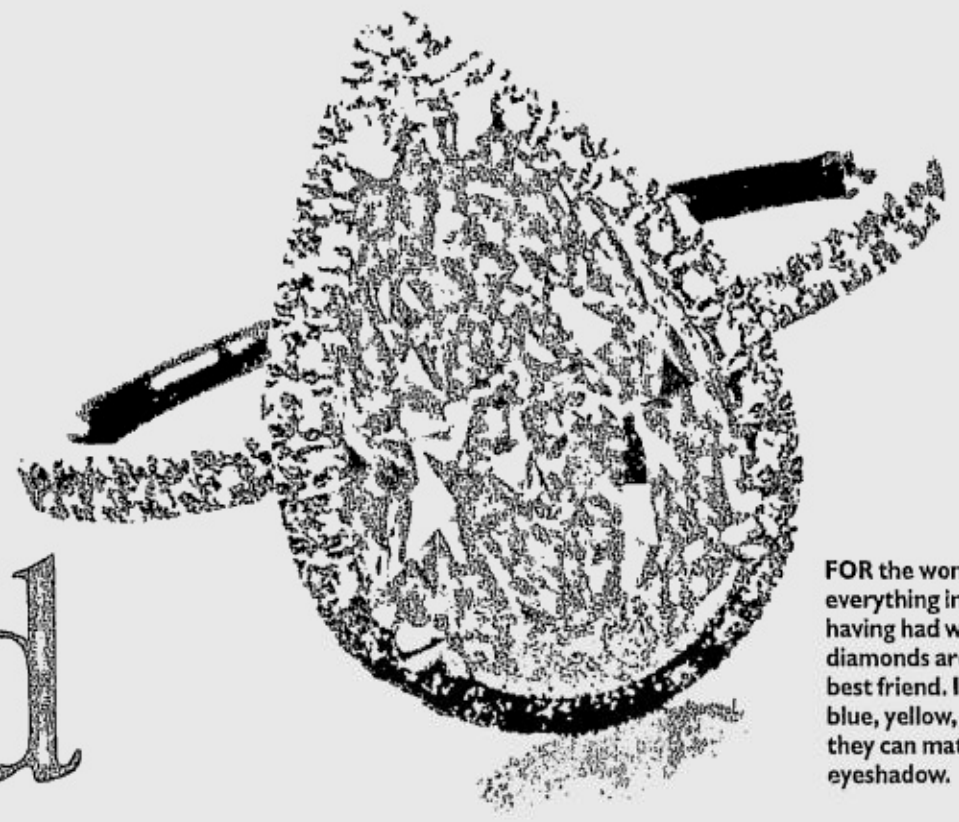


STEPHEN Webster, cutting-edge jeweler to Madonna and Guy Ritchie, whips rock-n-roll into jadeite, a traditional Chinese gemstone.

Sotheby's jewelry sale in Hong Kong features a flawless 56-karat diamond

The bold and the beautiful



FOR the woman who has everything in white: After having had whites, colored diamonds are a girl's new best friend. In red, black, blue, yellow, green and pink, they can match your eyeshadow.

From page F1

jewelry designers on special designs to be sold exclusively at auction.

In 2000, the house commissioned Victoire de Castellane of Christian Dior Haute Joaillerie to create a jadeite and diamond suite of a necklace, detachable brooch, ring and earrings which she christened Promesse.

Two unique necklaces designed by two of the biggest names in contemporary jewelry design, British designers Stephen Webster and Theo Fennell, contribute to the highlights of this sale.

As show-biz followers will know, Webster was the designer of choice for Guy Ritchie and Madonna's wedding rings. From Oprah to the Osbournes, most of Hollywood owns a Stephen Webster.

He is also known for knuckleduster rings, his Gothic Black Widow collection which combines inky black Tahitian pearls with diamonds, and his Rayman series, in which he simulates sting-ray skin using black and colored diamonds.

Webster's necklace for Sotheby's combining jadeite and diamonds lives up to his reputation of radical rock chic. Working for the first time in jadeite, Webster has created a glamorous choker-style necklace of 33 highly translucent jadeite cabochons punctuated by eight diamond-encrusted oval pieces terminating into a cascading six-strand tassel of tiny black diamonds and jadeite beads.

Quek Chin Yeow points out that the necklace took a few months to make, and the translucent green, oval jadeite pieces had no backing like old 1920s settings "because the stones were bright enough and did not need enhancement."

Colorful English

Theo Fennell, another name popular among Hollywood and the jet set, counts rockers Robbie Williams, Rod Stewart, Elton John, actress Joan Collins, model Eva Herzigova and Prince Andrew among his clients who pick up the goods anywhere among the numerous Theo Fennell boutiques all over the UK or at the chic hotel Sandy Lane in Barbados.

Fennell's influence is in taking jewelry out of its preciousness into everyday wearability with a chic and contemporary look. He has made jewelry take a radical step from the subtle and stylish everyday rings, bracelets and necklaces to belly-button rings, chains, eyebrow and lip rings in the Anywear range.

He even took sterling silver out of its stuffy dining enclave into almost irreverent use like Marmite (a yeast-based traditionally British savory spread one usually had on toast, similar in flavor to *bagoong*), Heinz Ketchup and Smirnoff vodka lids.

For his popular Lief crosses which are based on classical borders, Fennell uses tanzanite, amethyst and tourmalines for crosses held by an X at the center with or without a single diamond. Strip is the much-publicized sexy, single bar of diamonds as a pendant.

The necklace Fennell designs exclusively for this auction epitomizes his sleek and modern style. Simply a chain-link necklace accented by 15 graduated circular-cut pink diamonds weighing a total of 6.40 karats, it is, as Quek Chin Yeow said, "perfect and simple enough for every day."

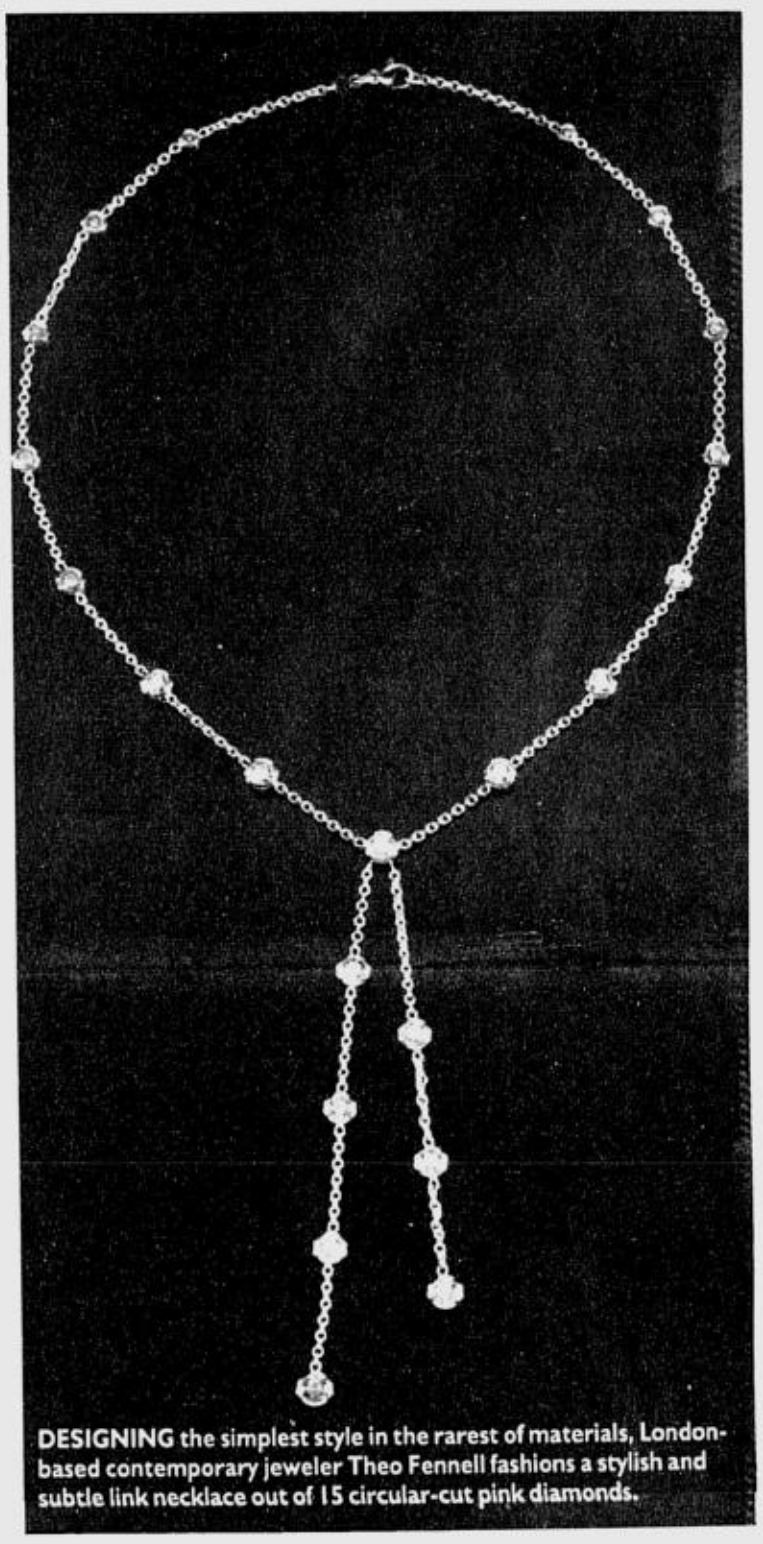
And at about $250,000, I'm thinking, maybe I should forget about the Rolls... Or perhaps I should consider eating rolls for the rest of my life! Dry rolls.

Sotheby's Hong Kong 30th Anniversary Auction of Magnificent Jewels and Jadeite consists of 296 lots of diamonds, jadeite and jewels of special designs. It is set on Oct. 27 at Island Shangri-La Hong Kong. Contact Ms Kim Camacho of the Philippines Representative Office at (632) 8848241, fax (632) 8848242, or e-mail kim.camacho@sothebys.com.

E-mail the author at kittygo_pdi@yahoo.com.

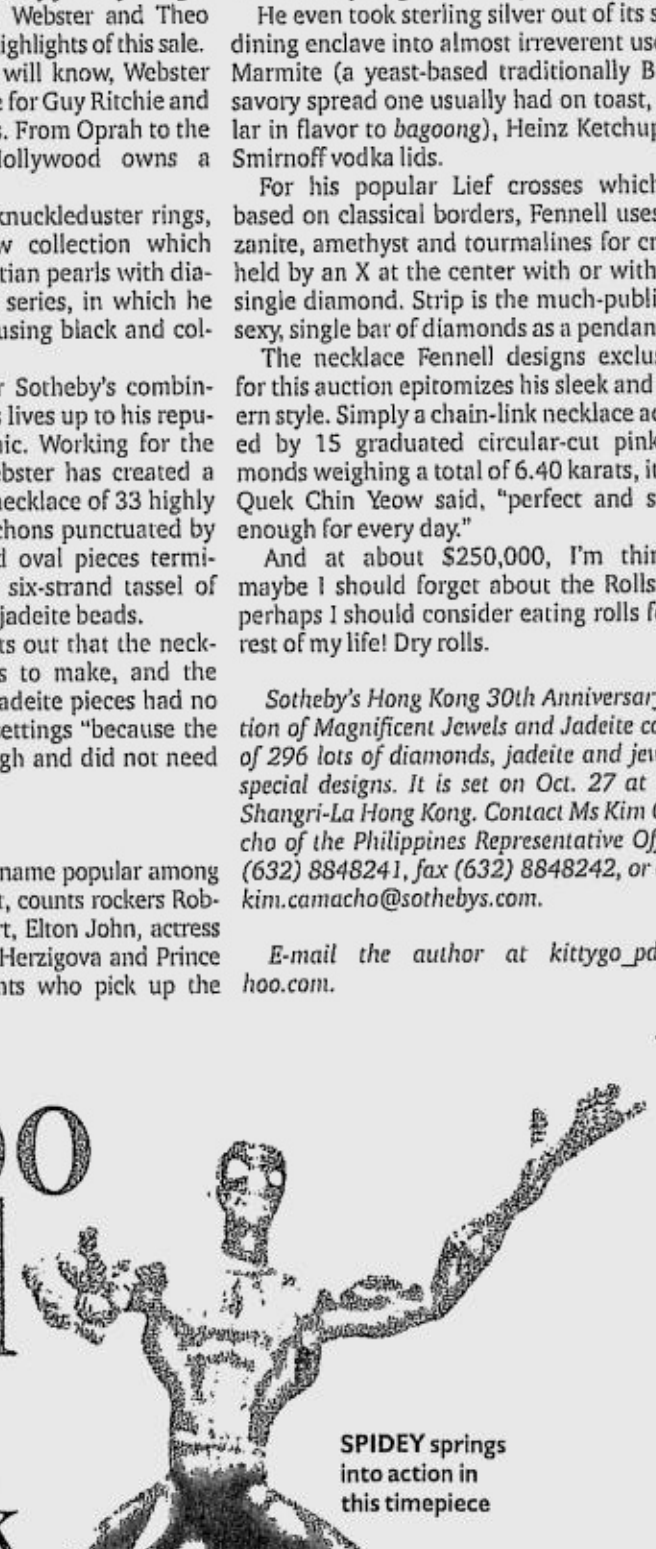
GOOD things come to those who wait: Rarely will a diamond of this quality, let alone its size of 56 karats, come onto any world market.

THIS exclusive Chanel Nebuleuse ring features an unheated, Burmese cushion cut 58 karat sapphire set on a diamond studded star-style shank.

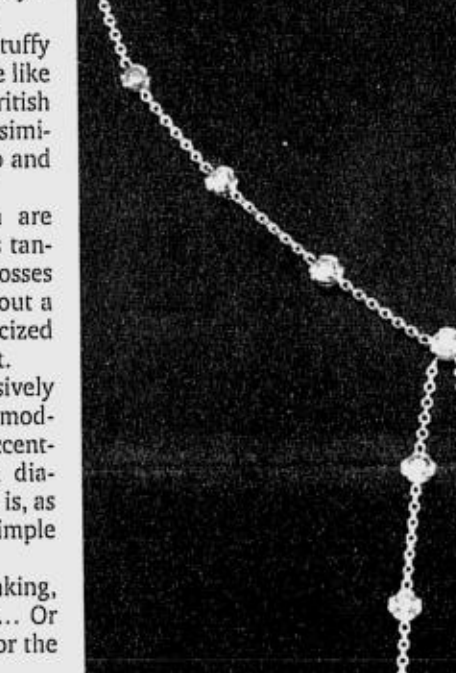


DESIGNING the simplest style in the rarest of materials, London-based contemporary jeweler Theo Fennell fashions a stylish and subtle link necklace out of 15 circular-cut pink diamonds.

Maori tattoo or Marvel superhero? Take your pick



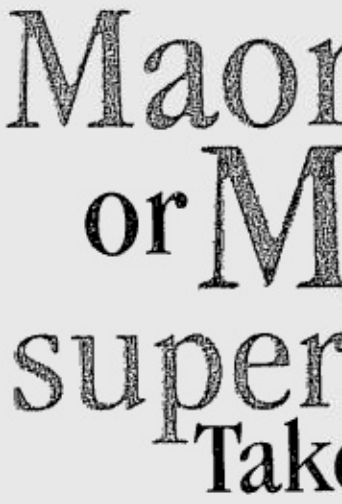
SPIDEY springs into action in this timepiece



MAORI-inspired, the latest from Technomarine

Technomarine's latest collection features ethnic art and do-gooders from comics

TATTOOED for effect, models wear Technomarine watches



Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Jim Guiao Punzalan

FANS of Swiss-made TechnoMarine watches can either go tribal or spring into action like their favorite Marvel superhero.

At a recent fashion show at the Shangri-La Makati's grand ballroom, the high-end watch brand launched its latest collection of watches and accessories inspired by the tattooed Maori tribe of New Zealand.

In keeping with the ethnic theme, buffed and tattooed male models paraded on the ramp in tight swimwear and scuba gear. Their female counterparts strutted their stuff in barely there bathing suits sans the face paint, sporting not one but two watches in eye-catching leather or PVC straps.

TechnoMarine made a splash when it first debuted abroad in 1997. The brand was launched in the Philippines four years later with TechnoMarine Enterprises Phils., Inc. as its exclusive distributor.

Founder and president Franck Dubarry's love affair with New Zealand began several years ago. He was so enthralled with the land and its ethnic minority that he wanted the tattoo to be the brand's new means of communications.

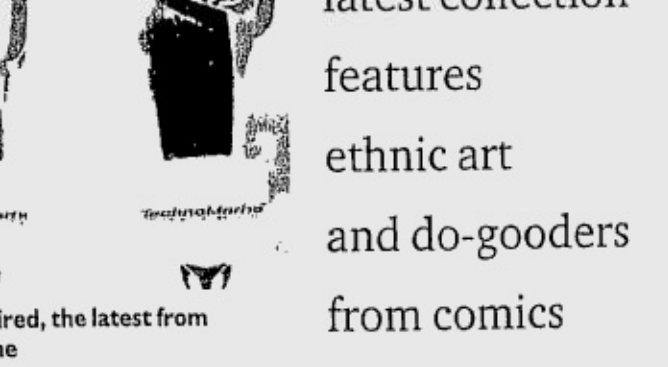
Thus, aside from its latest line of watches, the tattoo is found in TechnoMarine's pens, knives, cufflinks and jewelry pieces.

These items may be ethnic-inspired, but they certainly don't come cheap. A typical Maori watch can set back even the most loyal TechnoMarine fan by P70,000. At P170,000 and P167,000, respectively, the diamond-studded bangle and pendant are the priciest items in the collection.

At the same time, TechnoMarine is also offering a set consisting of six fancy watches (P250,000 per set) featuring such Marvel do-gooders as Spider-Man, Captain America, The Hulk, Spider Girl, The Thing and Silver Surfer. The "special" collector's set will be individually available in November, just in time for the holidays.

To underscore its reputation as a quality diver's watch, each Marvel-inspired timepiece is colorful and water-resistant up to 200 meters.

E-mail the author avergara@inquirer.com.ph



HIS and hers and high end

SM Group founder and chair Henry Sy Sr. welcomes thousands of excited shoppers to the newly-opened SM City Lucena with SM prime executive VP Hans Sy.

CUTTING the ribbon at SM City Lucena opening ceremony are (from left) SM president Teresita Sy Coson, Rep. Lynn Punzalan, Msgr. Oscar Leano, Gov. Willie Enverga, Mayor Ramon Talaga Jr. and SM prime executive vice president Hans Sy.

Shopping mall opens in Lucena

SM'S Hans Sy and National Bookstore's Presentacion Ramos

SM GROUP founder and chair Henry Sy, Sr. welcomed the first wave of customers during the recent opening of SM City Lucena.

SM City Lucena, which is SM Prime's 15th supermall, is located on a 79,503-sq m property. The three-level mall, which totals 72,056 sq. m in floor area, will serve customers the Southern Tagalog region, the Bicol region, Marinduque, Romblon and Masbate.

The inaugural was marked by a concelebrated Mass led by Msgr. Oscar Leano, and a ribbon-cutting ceremony where Quezon Gov. Willie Enverga. Rep. Lynn Punzalan, and Lucena Mayor Ramon Talaga, Jr. were the guests of honor. They were joined by SM officials such as Felicidad Sy, Tessie Sy Coson, Hans Sy and Herbert Sy.

In a takeoff from the traditional coin shower, coins for good luck and prosperity came from a giant coconut shell to pay tribute to Quezon's coconut industry. Guests later enjoyed a Filipiniana-inspired show with Lucenahins performing traditional dances.

The mall features a mix of Manila-based and homegrown tenants. Among those who came in from Manila were National Book Store's Presentacion Ramos, Ricky Reyes Salon's Ricky Reyes, Penshoppe's Bernard Liu, Freeway's Sherry Gotauco, Mendrez' Liza Flor San Diego, Executive Optical's Dr. Maximo Uy, Onica's Benito Tan, Timex's Nareshi Mirani and Ideal Vision's Mary Chua

Restaurant owners from Manila included Tokyo Tokyo's Ivan Ramos; Goldilocks' Franklin Go, Chin's Express and Inihaw Express' Ricky and Beng Dee and Kusina ni Gracia's Eddie and Grace Gobing.

Lucena-based entrepreneurs, who would have stalls in the mall, also graced the occa-

SHOPPING/ F4

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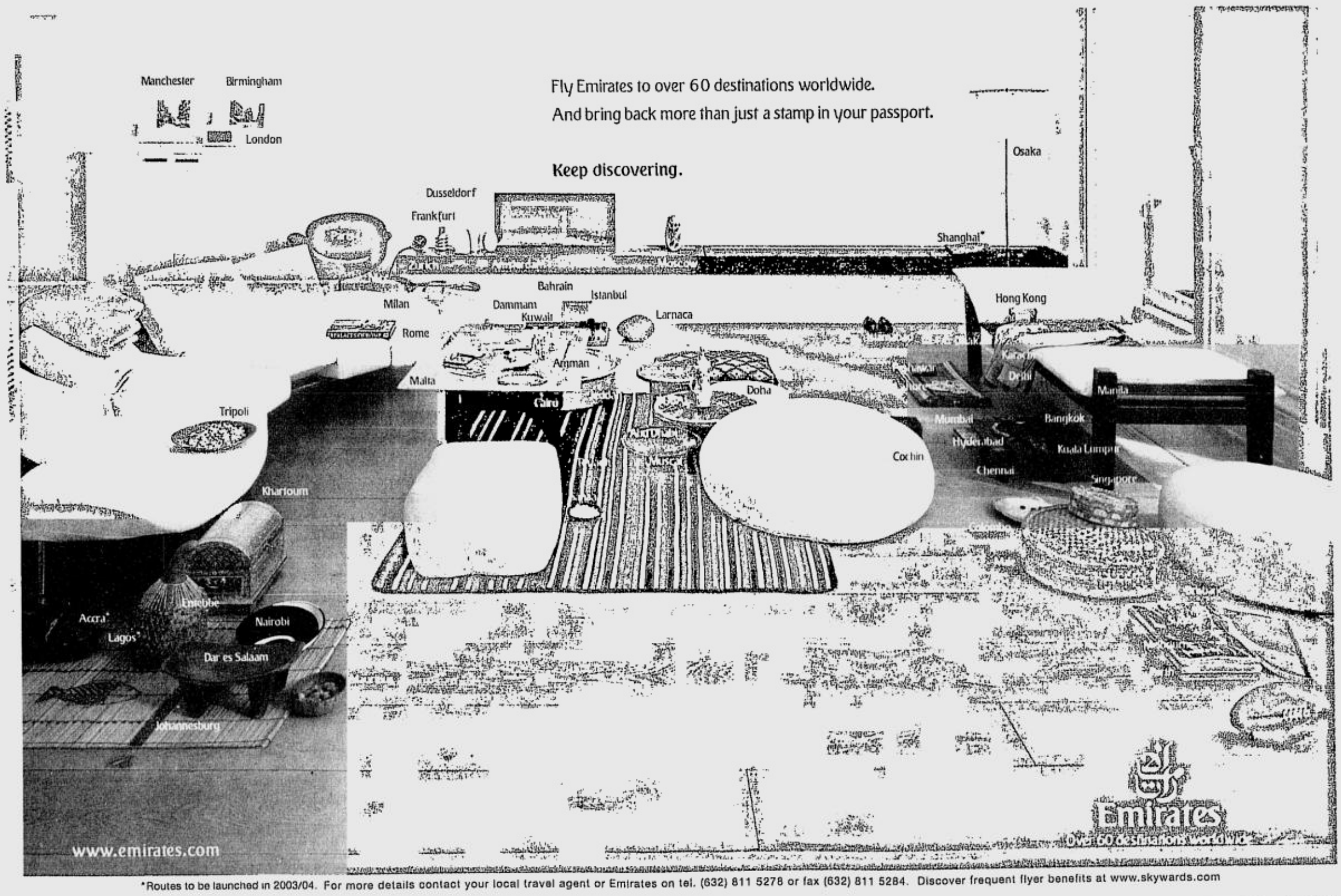

*Routes to be launched in 2003/04. For more details contact your local travel agent or Emirates on tel. (632) 811 5278 or fax (632) 811 5284. Discover frequent flyer benefits at www.skywards.com

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Exclusive 5-day sale at Rustan's for Citibank cardholders

WHIP out your Citibank credit cards for the most exclusive sale event of the year!

The country's leading credit card issuer has tied up with the country's premier shopping establishment, Rustan's Department Store, to give you discounts when you shop using your Citibank credit card.

This exciting event is available for five glorious shopping days beginning October 15, 2003! Enjoy discounts on all items in the store, including regular items, those marked with x on the price tags, even consigned merchandise. To enjoy the discount, you have to purchase using a Citibank credit card.

Valuable discounts are marked for most items, from the best lines of children's toys and apparel to some of the most elegant men's and women's fashion wear. With an extensive collection of high-end brands, the Citibank-Rustan's exclusive 5-day sale offers the most extensive range of shopping items for your discriminating taste.

Look for your favorite brands within these categories:

Men's and Ladies' clothing & accessories: Arrow, Anne Klein, Ashworth, Buffalo jeans, Barong II, Tiger, CK Jeans & Underwear, Calypso, Colour 18, Company B, Dolce & Gabbana, Guess, Goldpfeil, Goody's, Diesel, DKNY, Episode, Fendi, Ferragamo, Guess, Kenneth Cole, LA Gear, Lacoste, Lya Armovit, Maidenform, Triumph Assorted Products, Undercolors of Benetton, Marlboro Classics, Natori, Nine West, Polo Jeans Co., Polo Ralph Lauren, Van Heusen and Carolina Herrera.

Shoes, Bags, and leather goods: Adidas, Rockport, Bally, Bass, Fila, Hedgren, Kickers, Vans, Umbro, American Tourister, Dexter, Coach, Kate Spade, and Samsonite.

Toys, maternity, and baby products: Bankee Toys, Byloz, Hebron Toys, Barbie items, Chicco, Bebe' drak, Bebejou, Bubble Gummer, Little Tikes, Fisher Price, Nintendo, Sega, Skool, Magic Years, Megablock, MOM2B, Megcos, Power Rangers accessories, Powerpuff Girls, Toyotoys, Quilted Giraffe and RL Kids.

Home/office appliances: Alessi, Magic Chef, American Home, Maytag, Profine, Sunnex lighting, Canon, and Supergreen Computer.

Watches, perfumes, and accessories: Elizabeth Arden, DKNY Watches, Emporio Armani watches, Fossil, Cross, Kenneth Cole watches, Philippe Charriol, Van Cleef, Kenzo, Givenchy, Nina Ricci Perfume, Paco Rabanne, Impag, Blooming Character, Karutora, Silverlink, BLI Sunglasses, Roshan sunglasses, and Oakley.

Also available are free gift items upon purchase of selected products.

The Citibank-Rustan's exclusive 5-day sale is happening at all Rustan's Department Stores nationwide. Visit the following branches: Ayala Center, Makati, Edsa Shangri-La Plaza, Cubao, Alabang, Harrison Plaza, and Cebu. Rush to the nearest branch on the promotional dates and start your exclusive shopping spree with your Citibank credit card.

For more details, call the 24-hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 or visit www.ciibank.com.ph.

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And there's more!

- 5% discount on all X and consigned items
- 5% discount on cosmetics and fragrances
- 10% off on regular items
- Up to 50% off on selected consigned items
- Same cash and card price for Sale/Red Tag items

Citibank Members-Only 5-Day Sale
Rustan's Department Stores
October 15-19, 2003

Promotion is not available in all Rustan's U floors for purchases of Rustan's U brands. See posters for details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2993, Series of 2003.

Rustan's

citibank

Fashionable techie center

THOSE visiting the Hub to check out the latest phones and Globe Technology are in for a treat with its new lifestyle walls.

Sleek images of models in Paul Smith clothes are now splashed on a techie spread in the interiors. It complements a place where the ambience is kinetic and upbeat.

Smith also provided recently clothes for a fashion pictorial at Hub Rockwell that brought the latest styles and gadgets together.

The new images on the Hub's walls give the store a more stylish and sophisticated look. Colors, contemporary lighting and modern fixtures put the handsets and phone accessories on display to their best advantage.

The Hub has stores at Podium, Rockwell Power Plant Mall and Glorietta 4.

Appliance exhibit ongoing

WHITE-WESTINGHOUSE by Electrolux is presenting a series of product exhibits in Metro Manila.

Electrolux, the world's largest producer of household appliances, is holding the exhibits for the public to know more about White-Westinghouse and the company's tradition of durability, dependability and superior design and function for its products.

Exhibits are held at: BPI Madness, Glorietta Activity Center, until Oct. 26; SM-Citibank Appliance Fiesta, Megatrade Hall 2, SM Megamall, until Nov. 2.

Credit card holders (Citibank for SM, BPI for BPI madness) can avail of zero percent interest when they buy White-Westinghouse products on those dates.

Electrolux and White-Westinghouse appliances are available at Abenson, Automatic Center, SM appliances and other appliance stores nationwide.

For service, call the Electrolux Service Hotline, 8259908 to 09 or e-mail customercare@electrolux.com.ph or check out the website http://www.electrolux.com.ph.

Shopping mall opens in Lucena

From page F3

sion. These included Big Mak's Francis and Edna Dy, Buddy's Pizza's Salvador Belus, Kofee Klatch's Antonio and Milada Valde, Donna Kids and Happy We's Rozaldie and Donna Chua, Betchan's Lilibeth Par, Basbarnn Barney's Barney and Sheila Chito. Also there were Raymond Redor of Redor's Dental Clinic and Dr. Pat and Jane Andaman of Clinica Lucena.

When completed, SM Lucena will have more than 160 stores, restaurants and amusement areas.

The mall houses the SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, SM Appliance Center, Ace Hardware, Watson's, Our Home, Surplus Shop and Toy Kingdom.

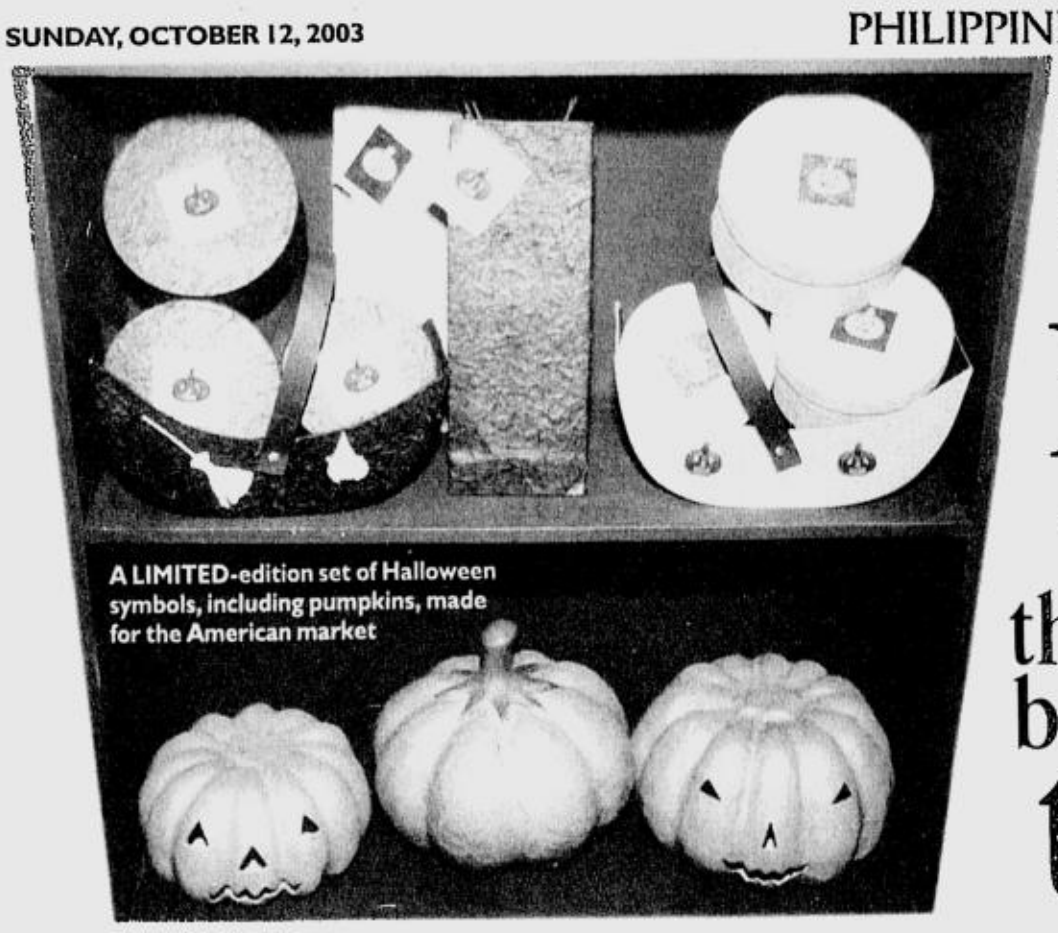
The SM Food Court includes such internationally known brands as Pizza Hut and Kenny Rogers, as well as Jollibee and Goldilocks. It has four state-of-the-art cinemas, amusement centers and a bowling lane.

SM City Lucena is located at the intersection of the Pagbilao National Road and Dalahican Road in Lucena City, Quezon.

ATTY. Espiridion Laxa

LUCENA'S two-time Palanca awardee Niles Jordan Breis

Sunday LIFESTYLE



A LIMITED-edition set of Halloween symbols, including pumpkins, made for the American market

Paper work that doesn't begin with a tree

Text by Linda B. Bolido
Photos by Johnny Villena

LUCA Vezzaro does not want to kill trees. In fact, he does not use them even after they return from the dead, in a manner of speaking.

So when the Italian claims he uses no trees in his handmade paper business, you have got to believe him. Zerotree Handicrafts, Inc. means exactly that.

Using mainly abaca, the factory also uses cogon and other Philippine grasses. "We use only fast-growing plants," Vezzaro says.

Vezzaro, who is president of the factory based in Carmona, Cavite, does not use even recycled paper from trees to make gift wrappers, bags and boxes; fancy stationery and greeting cards and other products. Even his *papier-maché* items use freshly made Zerotree paper.

Biggest exporter

Zerotree is arguably the country's biggest exporter of hand-made paper, producing an average of 6,000 papers everyday. Last year, it shipped 4.5 million boxes to Germany. Two containers of paper bags are sent to the United States every month.

Vezzaro moved to the Philippines some six years ago armed with skills in papermaking acquired in his native Italy and honed in Germany. There's a love angle reportedly attached to that story somewhere, but he also decided "the Philippines was one of the more strategic places where hand-made paper could be made and used."

The use of trees, even recycled paper, was out of the question. Vezzaro explains, "(Recycled paper) would have ink and that would mean chemicals that could be harmful." Abaca, he says, was his first and automatic choice when he made up his mind to venture into papermaking here. "Abaca is *pinaka*-flexible material," adds Vezzaro, who speaks English and Filipino thickly laced with his native Italian accent.

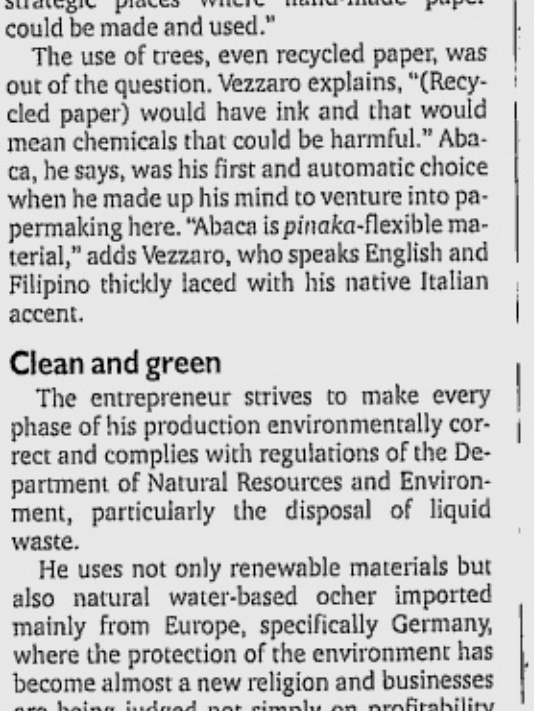
Clean and green

The entrepreneur strives to make every phase of his production environmentally correct and complies with regulations of the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, particularly the disposal of liquid waste.

He uses not only renewable materials but also natural water-based ocher imported mainly from Europe, specifically Germany, where the protection of the environment has become almost a new religion and businesses are being judged not simply on profitability but environmental contributions as well.

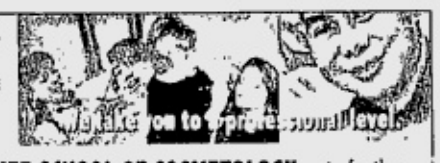
Vezzaro says, in Europe, he has to show proof that he is not using toxic chemicals in his production so "everything used and produced by Zerotree is recyclable." That is probably a major reason his products are big in the European market. The company has also

PAPER/ G2



ZEROTREE sends two container vans filled with paper bags every month to the United States alone.

TONY GALVEZ SCHOOL OF COSMETOLOGY



TONY GALVEZ SCHOOL OF COSMETOLOGY puts forth an international-based curriculum that aims to elevate the level of the COSMETOLOGY PROFESSION in the country.

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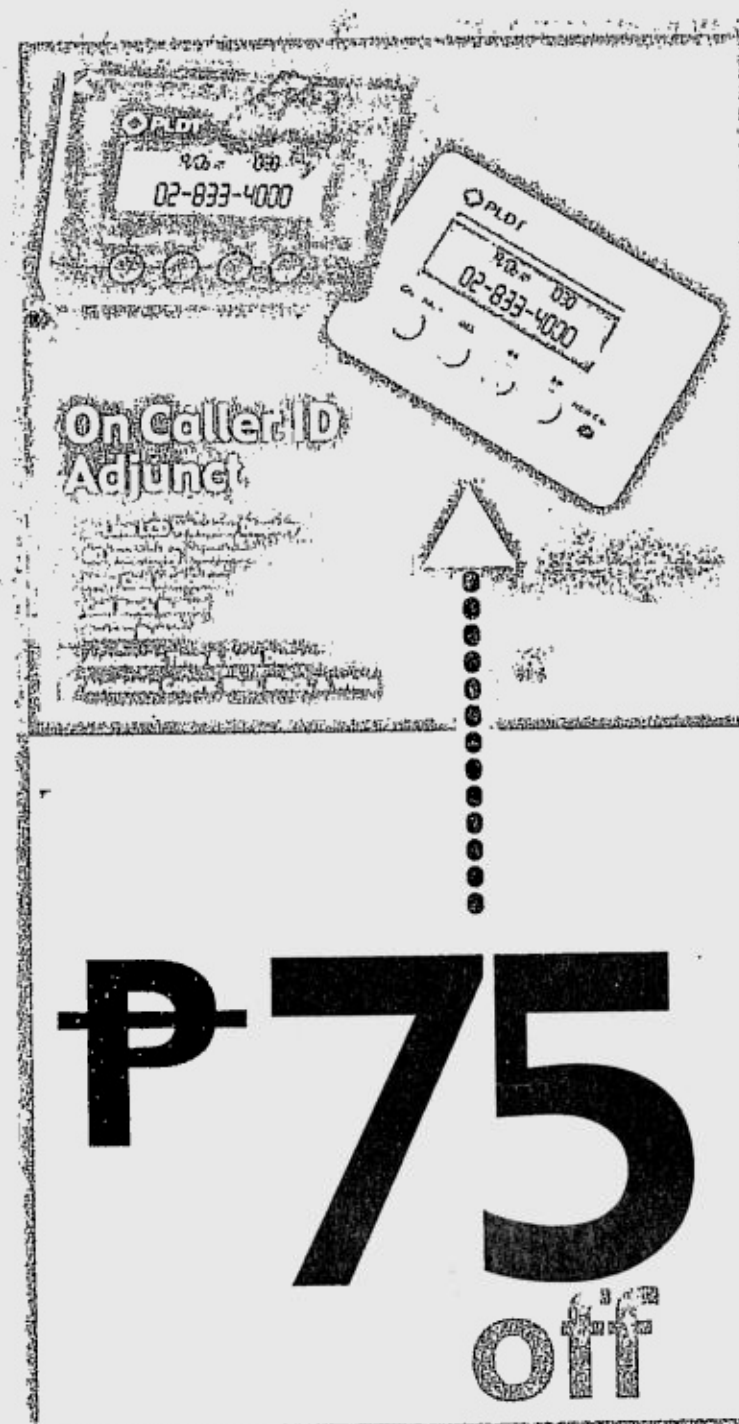
To celebrate PLDT's 75th Anniversary, we're giving BIG DISCOUNTS on Caller ID!



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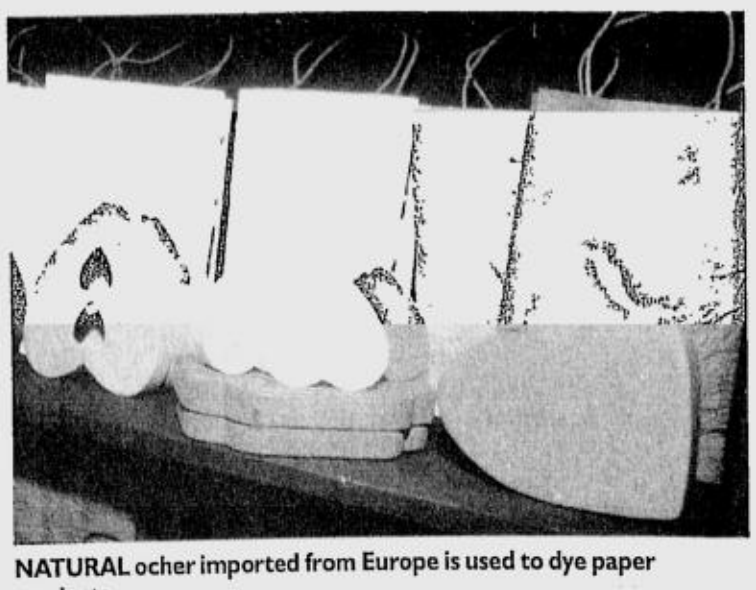
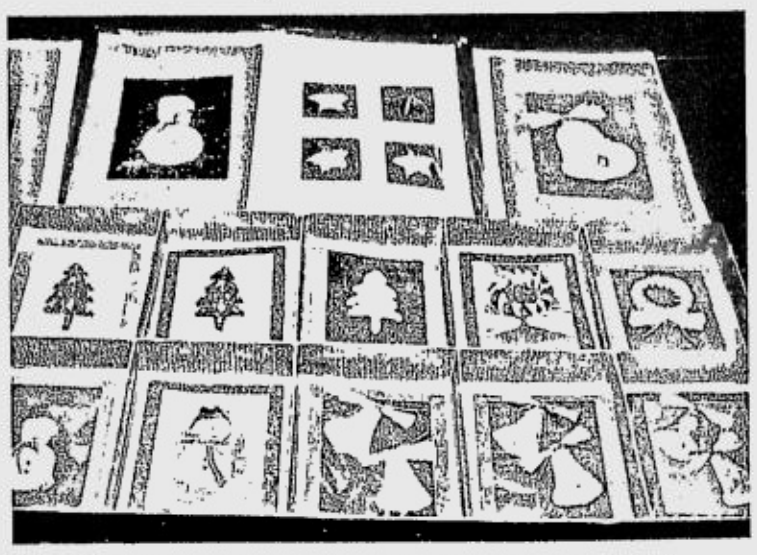
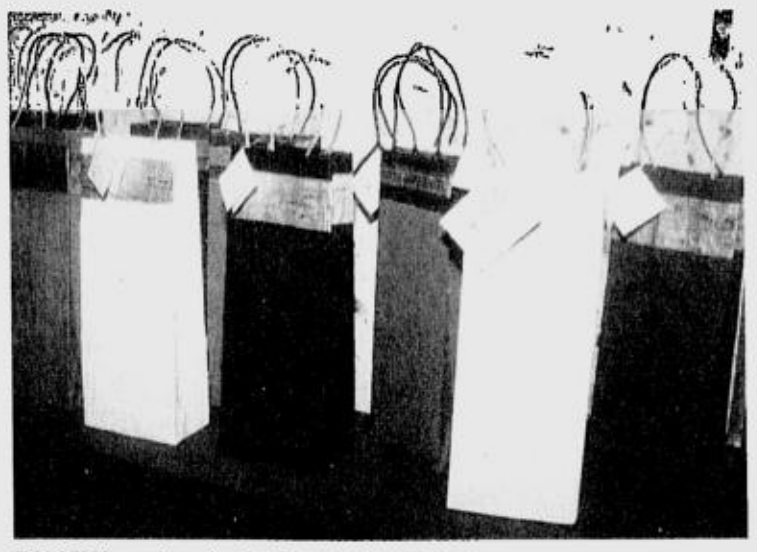


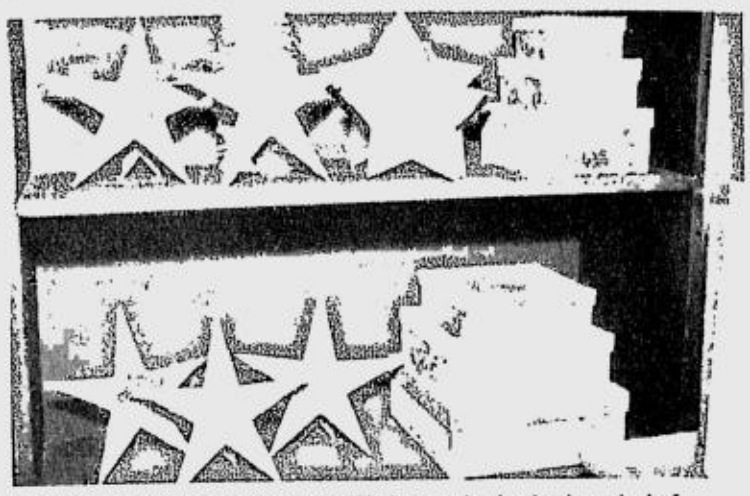
NATURAL ocher imported from Europe is used to dye paper products.



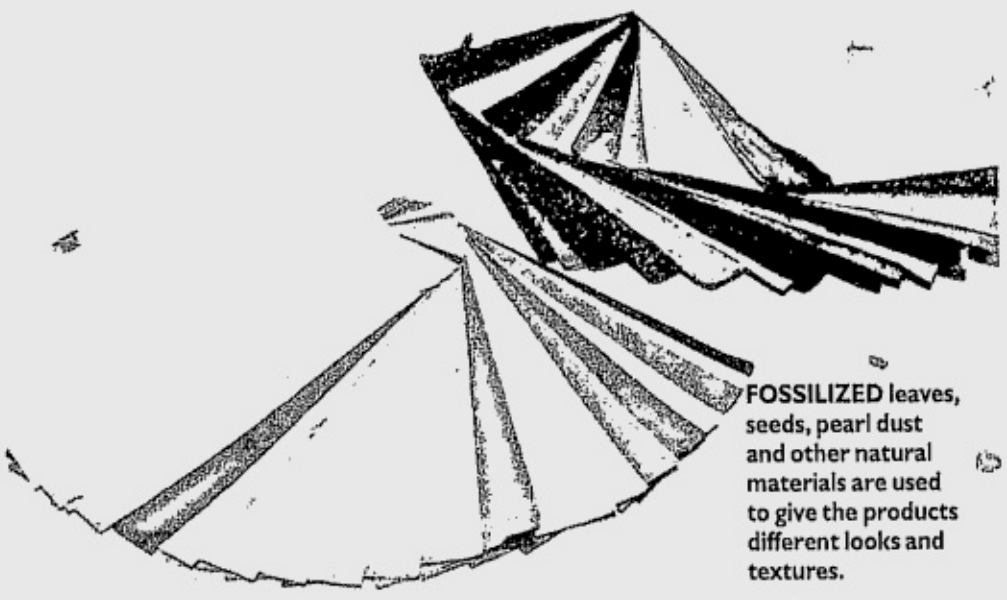
BOUND FOR EUROPE, these greeting cards are a hit because Europeans still like sending greeting cards, according to Vezzaro.



FANCY bags for wine bottles



LIKE the rest of the Philippines, Christmas is also in the mind of Zerotree people except that, as exporters, they are thinking of 2004 rather than 2003.



FOSSILIZED leaves, seeds, pearl dust and other natural materials are used to give the products different looks and textures.

Paper work that doesn't begin with a tree

From page G1

started to make headway in the United States, linking up with a big distributor that brings its products to six superstores.

Sourcing Sulu

Aside from giving respectability to lowly species like cogon, Zerotree is helping energize the southern province of Sulu, specifically by revitalizing its abaca industry. Many Filipinos, who generally associate abaca with the Bicol region will be surprised to know that Vezzaro gets his raw material from Mindanao.

"Abaca from Sulu is of good quality and there is no interruption in supplies," says Vezzaro, who gets two tons of the fiber every week. Although Sulu is much farther than even the southernmost part of Bicol, Vezzaro says the arrangement remains cost-effective.

With designer Max Castrillo, nephew of the sculptor Ed and son of the late Filipino DC Comics illustrator Amado, Vezzaro is also experimenting in the use of other Philippine resources as natural dyes or accents for new collections.

The new Mocha line, Castrillo says, gets its earth tones from coffee grains. Sap from *buko* husk lent color to a green-dyed edition. Castrillo, who, despite his artistic genes has a degree in Economics and no formal art lessons, says he keeps abreast of customer preferences in developing designs. Right now, he says, buyers go for simple, indigenous materials and modern designs with subtle, not too ethnic, Filipino touches.

Collections like Abapearl, Abacorn, Abacoco, Abafossil and Abanatura drew their names from accents used to give the paper a different look and texture—Capiz powder, corn husk, coconut shells, fossilized leaves, and flowers, seeds, etc.

For client presentations, Castrillo says he has to develop about 20 designs from which about half will be chosen for commercial production.

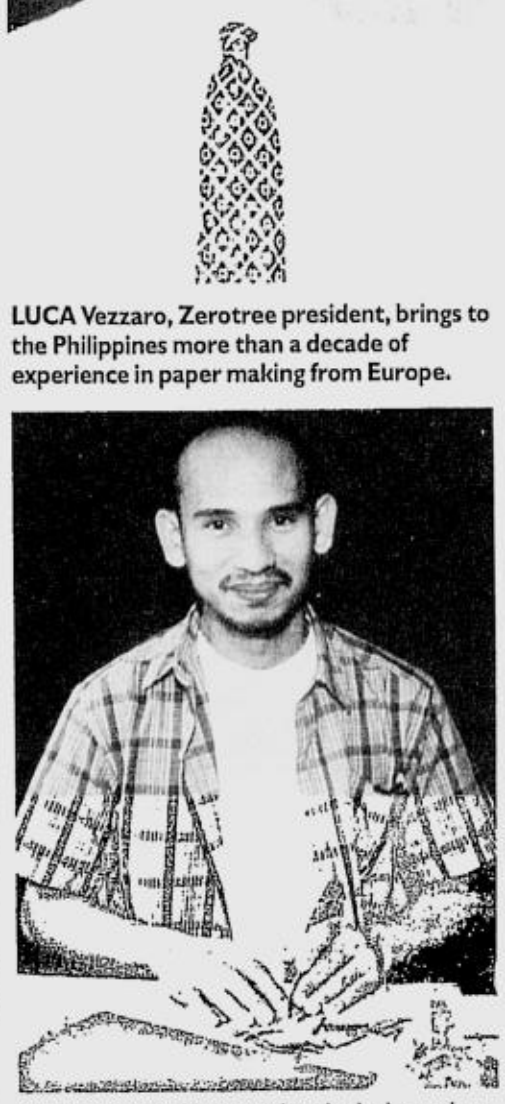
Zerotree nixes even the use of recycled paper because ink has chemicals that can be harmful

Zerotree has a drying area in Trece Martires City, the capital of Cavite province. Vezzaro sub-contracts *papier-maché* boxes to craftspeople in Laguna who, he says, already have the expertise, providing all the raw materials.

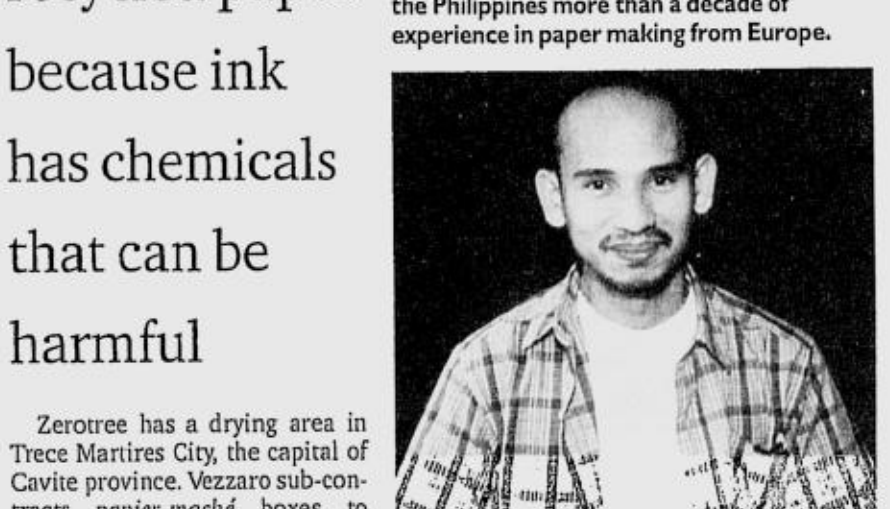
Although Zerotree products are not retailed locally, Vezzaro says the company can accept custom-made orders.

Call (046) 4302603/4302605; fax (046) 4302604; e-mail zerotree@pacific.net.ph; website www.zerotree-handicrafts.com.

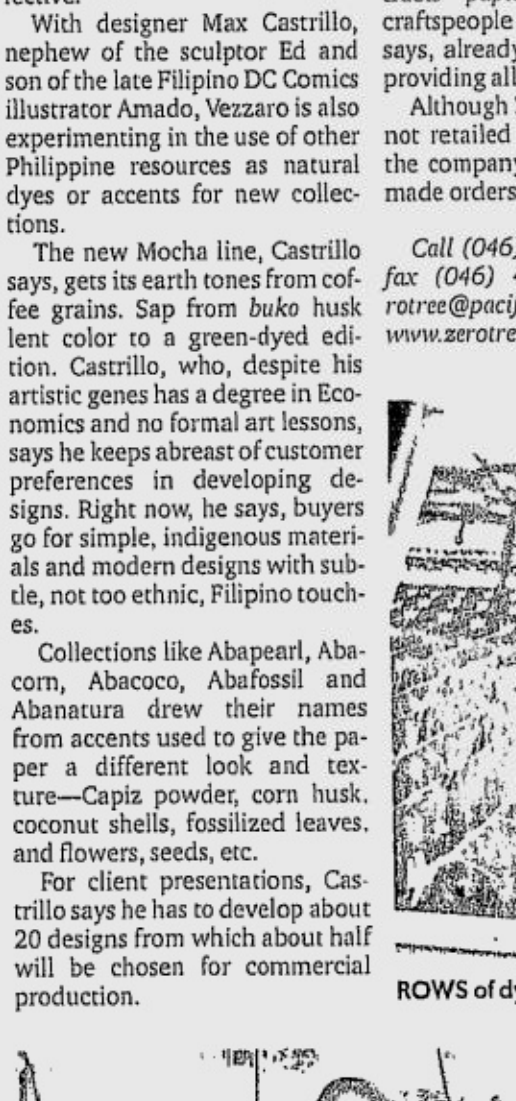
LUCA Vezzaro, Zerotree president, brings to the Philippines more than a decade of experience in paper making from Europe.



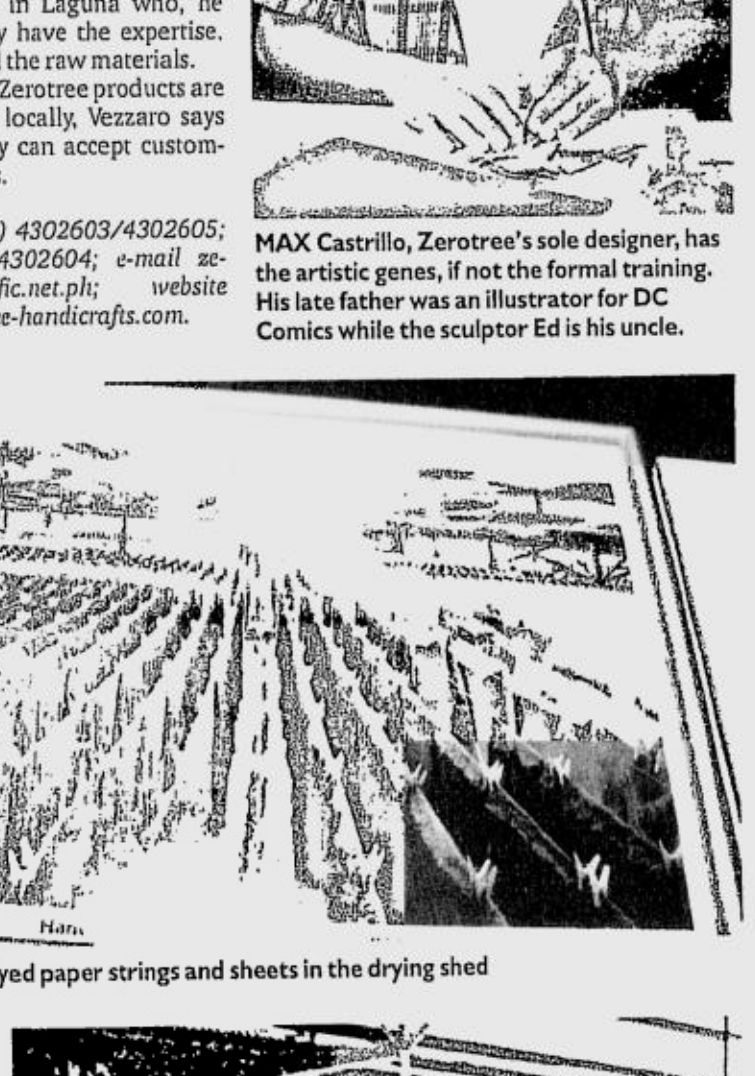
MAX Castrillo, Zerotree's sole designer, has the artistic genes, if not the formal training. His late father was an illustrator for DC Comics while the sculptor Ed is his uncle.



ROWS of dyed paper strings and sheets in the drying shed



A WORKER cuts up abaca fiber into short strips to make "cooking" easier and faster.



ZEROTREE makes sure workers wear the proper protective gear, including masks, all the time.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone — PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Center of attraction
6 Leaves out
12 Comic DeLuise
15 Scarcely any
18 Riyadh religion
19 Nonsense
20 Actress Gardner
21 "— Gotta Be Me" ('69 hit)
22 CROSS
24 CROSS
26 Eat in the evening
27 Bulldog, for one
28 Swimmer Thorpe
30 Ain't the way it should be?
31 Basil or Tennille
32 Lacking principles
36 Delicious
37 "The Three Musketeers" prop
40 Gift
42 Senator Kefauver
45 CROSS
50 Actress Mercouri
51 Least vivid
52 — Cruces, NM
53 Pantry item
56 "America's Most Wanted" abbr.
57 Writer Wharton
59 Energy source
61 Make muffins
62 — Piper
63 Cunning
66 Wordy
68 "— the One" ('76 hit)
71 CROSS
75 Common contraction
76 History
78 Amphitheater feature
79 Newspaper notice
81 Occupied
82 Roads scholar?
84 Magnificent number
86 "What?"
89 Multi-purpose vehicle
90 Highlander's headgear
91 Wind instrument?
95 Act like the Earth
97 CROSS
101 Prelim
102 More minute
103 '75 Wimbledon winner
104 — -garde
107 Got promoted
109 Sow's sweetheart
112 Hunt or Hamilton
113 Director Craven
114 Saturn model
115 — de Janeiro
118 CROSS
120 CROSS
127 — zone
128 Author Deighton
129 Trainees
130 Paraguayan title
131 Actress Charlotte
132 Directional suffix
133 One of the Borgias
134 Singer Marie

DOWN
1 TV's "Our — Brooks"
2 Son of Isaac
3 Prettify a poodle
4 "Silent" president
5 Cisco, to Pancho
6 Nav. rank
7 Chou En- —
8 "Canterbury Tales" setting
9 Act like a woodchuck
10 Soissons season
11 Damascus' nation
12 Denounce
13 "Ab —" (from the start)
14 Aquatic mammals
15 Sacks
16 Happening
17 Author Eudora
19 Put the match to
23 "Sound of Music" extra
25 Sward stuff
29 Guinness or Baldwin
31 Austin of "Knots Landing"
32 18 Across deity
33 It should be square
34 Formerly
35 Hwys.
37 Jane Austen novel
38 Cheat at hide-and-seek
39 Jazzy Fitzgerald
41 Datebook abbr.
43 Normandy site
44 Hike
46 "Strange Interlude" dramatist
47 Mean Marquis
48 Dickens title start
49 Cookbook direction
54 Related
55 Casanova's cry?
58 — Amin
60 Gumshoe
61 Gravy vessel
62 Frolic
63 "Holy cow!"
64 Decorative vase
65 Actress Miranda
67 Horned herbivores
68 "Elephant Boy" actor
69 Hardware item
70 Map feature
72 Collar a crook
73 Girl Scout unit
74 "Mazel —!"
77 Lance part
80 European capital
83 Baseball's Vizquel
84 Firm
85 Buffalo waterfront
86 "— Off to Larry" ('61 tune)
87 Provo's place
88 At this point
90 Squid feature
92 "Phooey!"
93 Rara —
94 Prong
96 Obsolete title
98 Siva worshiper
99 Something to skip?
100 Runs circles around
104 Writer Horatio
105 Actress Lisi
106 Battery part
108 Savory jelly
110 Aah's partner
111 "— of robins . . ."
113 Actor Keenan
115 Descartes or Levesque
116 Computer image
117 Gumbo thickener
119 "— Alibi" ('89 film)
121 Sue — Langdon
122 "— So Easy" ('77 hit)
123 PBS benefactor
124 Like some sale mdse.
125 Opposite of SSW
126 Society-page word

answer on page E3

La Naval today; La Union Chinese venerate Taal's Caysasay Lady

The Chinese goddess Ma-cho is believed to be the same as Taal's patroness

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE CENTURIES-OLD annual Feast of La Naval de Manila peaks today with the traditional mammoth procession in honor of the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, whose intercession was believed to have enabled the naval victory of the Catholic Spanish and Filipino forces against the much superior Protestant Dutch invaders in the 17th century, thus preserving Catholicism in the only Christian nation in Asia.

Promoted by the Dominicans, the devotion to La Naval has become the most dramatic and colorful religious celebration in Quezon City. Be there to witness and join in the fervor this afternoon.

Also today, the Santissima Rosario Parish, the parish covered by the UST Chapel in Sampaloc, Manila, marks its feast day.

Taal icon

The Chinese in San Fernando, La Union, also venerate our Lady of Caysasay, patroness of Taal, Batangas. They say their goddess Ma-cho is the same as Our Lady of Caysasay. On the first day of the 10th lunar moon, the Chinese go to the Taal Basilica bringing with them the statue of their goddess Ma-cho.

Sally Gonzales, executive director of the Virgin of Caysasay Foundation, tells the origin of the tradition.

Since the early 1960s, as Aldrico Dy, president of the Ma-cho Temple, could remember from the story of his forefathers, the Chinese devotees from La Union would go on a pilgrimage to Taal every year on the first day of the 10th lunar month of the Chinese calendar, coinciding with the feast of their goddess Ma-cho, whose image is now in the towering Taoist temple on a hill overlooking the San Fernando Bay in La Union.

However, in the early '70s, an unpleasant incident occurred. While celebrating the fiesta, most of the Chinese were apprehended by the Metropolitan Command or Metrocom of martial law days. Since then, the Chinese devotees would visit the Blessed Virgin of Caysasay very discreetly, arriving at about 8 p.m., braving storms (which they say happen every year), carrying their beloved goddess Ma-cho on her feast day to the St. Martin de Tours Basilica in Taal. They celebrate a Mass and make a solemn vigil till the wee hours of the morning and travel hundreds of miles back to La Union at daybreak.

The tradition has been passed on from generation to generation. On Sept. 1, for the first time, Chinese devotees went to the Shrine of Our Lady of Caysasay in Labac, Taal, on three tourist buses, a few private cars and a utility van carrying the goddess.

Members of the Ma-cho Church Inc. board of directors that joined the pilgrimage were Rodolfo Tiu, Juan Go, Jose Go, Paquito Dym and present *hermano mayor* Jimmy Purpe. Other officers were Linda Ang and Jackie Dyquiangco, who delivered a speech.

The group was warmly welcomed by Fr. Carlo Magno Ilagan, rector of the shrine and president of the Blessed Virgin of Caysasay Foundation (BVCF). Also present were Marietta Primicias Goco, treasurer and *hermana* for the 400th-year fiesta anniversary of Our Lady of Caysasay; former Mayor Fe Cabrera, Melitz Mitra, Delia Lota, Dr. Araceli Maravilla, Teddy Luansing, Dindo Montenegro and Sally Gonzalez, executive director of BVCF.

Red banners with Chinese characters welcomed Ma-cho. The two images were set side by side in front of the altar where incense sticks and big red candles were lit. After the Mass and a discussion among members of the foundations, a motorcade went to Taal Basilica where vigil was held. The Chinese brought offerings of food, incense as they placed Ma-cho at the foot of the altar of the Virgin of Caysasay.

The ritual signifies the honor given to the Our Lady of Caysasay who, according to divinations by Chinese with their goddess Macho, declares that she and the goddess are one and the same. She tells her devotees in La Union to go to Caysasay every year and venerate her to receive her blessings.

Our Lady of Caysasay will be at the Ermita Church on Oct. 24 for the noon Mass and will leave after the Oct. 27 noon Mass.

Ex-seminarian needs help

Mark Dexter Marbella, 27, an ex-seminarian from Sorsogon, needs money to pay for his twice-a-week dialysis in a Bataan hospital where he is cared for by an aunt.

Dexter's plight reached me through Gibbs Cadiz, our Lifestyle deskman, and Belle Bondoc, our editorial assistant. I know what Dexter is going through because my brother is also undergoing dialysis twice a week.

A friend of Dexter's, Agnes Marcial, has begun a text brigade and has written solicitation letters. Dexter's mother, Romana Marbella, is only a government employee and cannot afford to pay for the dialysis. Her sister in Bagac, Bataan, is a full-time housewife, and can take care of Dexter the whole day.

Dexter has end-stage renal disease and urgently needs a kidney transplant. Kind readers out there who can help may text Tita Denise at 0919-5957384 or call (056) 2111461. You may also text Agnes Marcial, who belongs to the same community in Our Lady's Village in Bibincahan, Sorsogon City, at 0917-2418875. Thank you for your kindness.

OUR Lady of the Rosary of La Naval

MARIETTA Goco of the Virgin of Caysasay Foundation carries the Goddess Ma-Cho with Fr. Carlo Ilagan to the Shrine of Our Lady of Caysasay.

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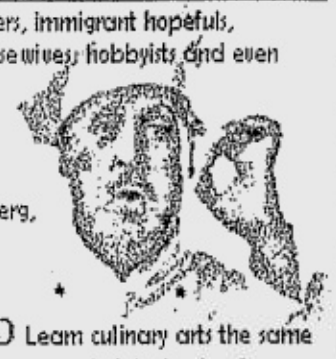


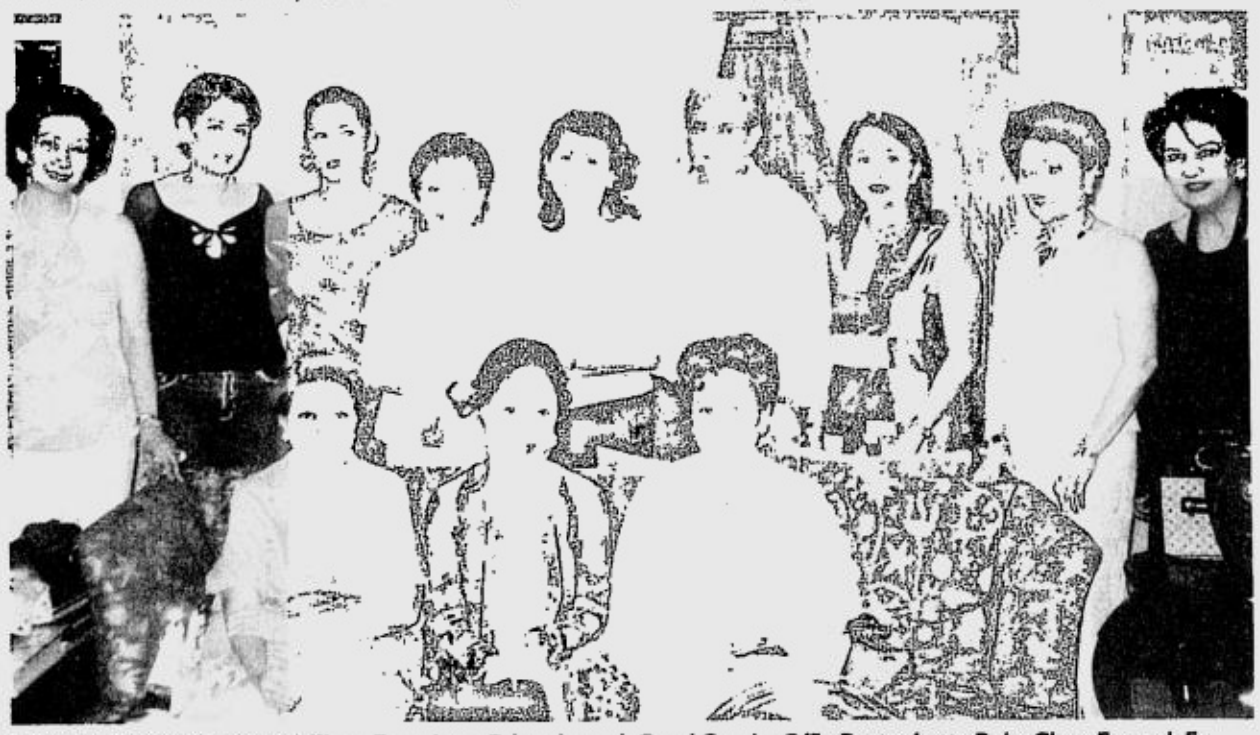
THE HONOREE with the UP Singing Ambassadors Paula Cubacub, Kristine Ventura, Katrina Torres, Badang Sanchez, Edna Mae Desabelle, Badette Bacquian, Len Geminiano, Ronald Somera, JM, John, Vic Cano, Oliver de Luna, Chuck and conductor Ed Manguiat.

Giving instead of receiving

Imelda Cojuangco, founding chair of the J Moreno Scholarship Foundation, distributed to scholars at the University of the Philippines Colleges of Medicine and Fine Arts their grant money as part of her birthday celebration. Held at the residence of Rep. and Ms Rene Dragon, the celebration started with a Mass celebrated by Father SSP Apolinar Kastor. Music was provided by the UP Singing Ambassadors led by conductor Ed Manguiat.

WITH UP College of Medicine scholars Jennifer Aquinoo, Arvin Samson, Karen Nicolaisa, Leonel Foronda, Rhoda Franco, Charlene Oris, Mary Machelle Maranan, Melissa Ann Leonardo, Apple Balbiran and Katherine Ty

WITH friend Pitoy Moreno and UP College of Fine Arts scholars Zherwin John Atienza, Ferdinand Mark Basa, Don Ryan Bonustro, Brian Llagas, Alfred Rey Capiral, Hiyasmin de Guzman, Jeffrey Delatado, Carl Christopher Loquias, Mervin Malonzo and Jethro Razo.



WITH FRIENDS (back row) Elena Francisco, Crispy Laurel, Carol Garcia, Offie Recto, Letty Ruiz, Claus Freund, Fe Rodriguez, Rosita Lesaca, Nene Leonor, (seated) Nelly Gonzalez and Letty Syquia.

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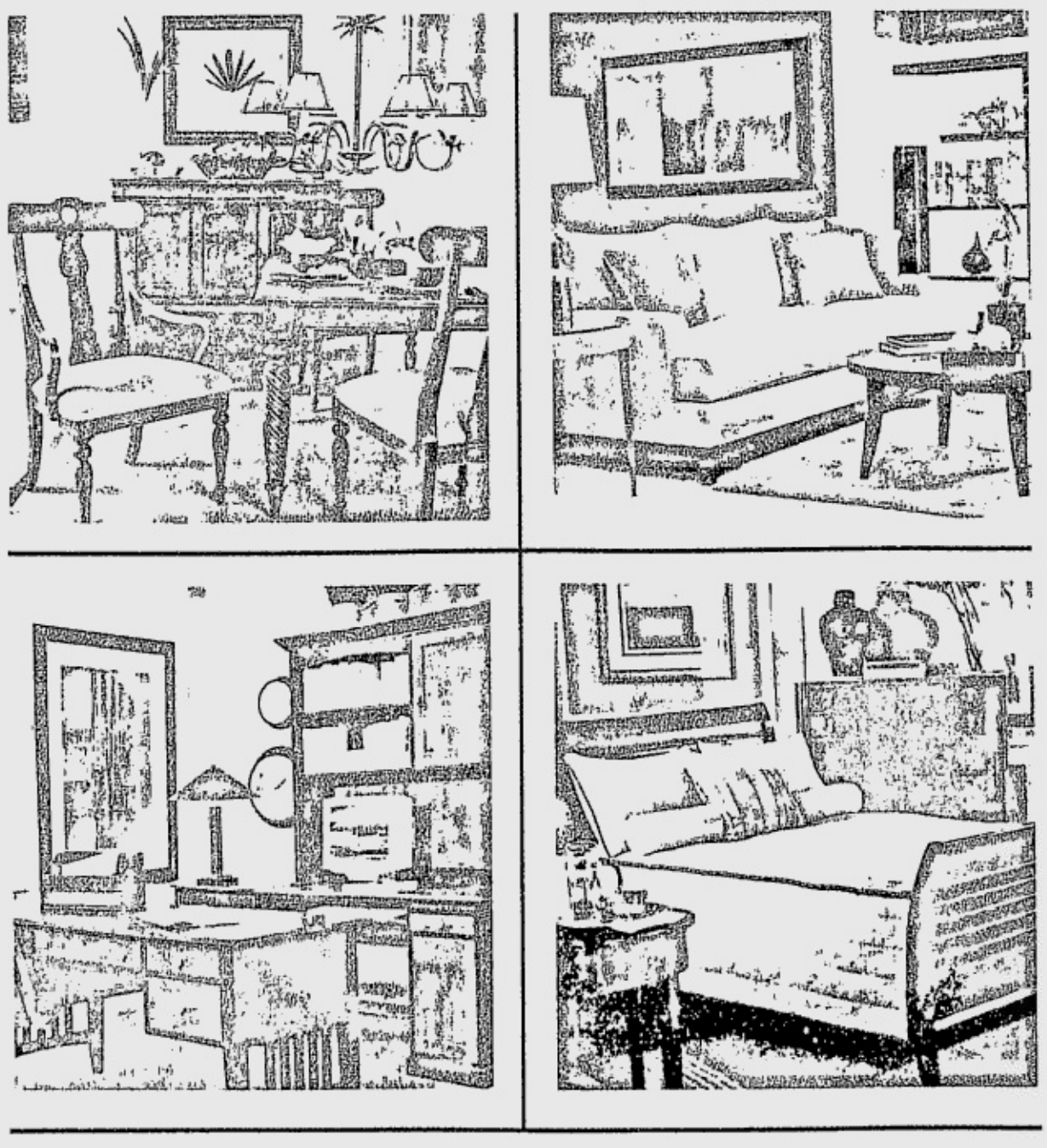

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Go malling and help a needy child

WORLD Vision's Gift of Hope campaign in eight SM Supermalls in Metro Manila will end Oct. 15.

Launched Sept. 16, the campaign was given free use of spaces for booths in eight SM malls. Through the booths, World Vision is trying to reach more Filipinos and encourage them to help the poor children.

World Vision started on a small island off the coast of Northern China more than 50 years ago. A young journalist, Bob Pierce, decided to help White Jade, a young Chinese girl who was beaten and thrown out by her father after she decided to become a Christian. Pierce gave US$5 every month to an orphanage, which took in the girl, to ensure a better future for her.

In 1950, World Vision was formally organized. It now assists more than two million children in over 100 countries. World Vision started its operations in the Philippines in 1957 by supporting children in three orphanages in the southern part of the country.

It has since helped more than 200,000 children finish their education. At present, it is sending more than 85,000 Filipino children to school through child sponsorships. About 5,000 are sponsored by Filipinos.

World Vision also utilizes the Internet to generate more support. INQ7.net gave the organization free ad space for one month in its homepage and a newsletter that resulted in pledges of sponsorship from overseas Filipinos, even from as far away as the Cayman Islands.

A CHILD sponsor gets a picture folder of the child he or she is supporting, containing basic information about the sponsored child.

The World Vision child sponsorship program provides for the child's basic needs—education, health and nutrition, and values formation. It also helps develop the community where the child lives. Through the program, the child is able to correspond with his or her sponsor. Sponsors get the Annual Progress Report of their beneficiaries.

The Gift of Hope booths are located at SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM North Edsa, SM Fairview, SM Sta. Mesa, SM Sucat, SM Bicutan, and SM Manila. For more information, contact World Vision Customer Service at 9270676, email wv_phil@wvi.org or visit www.worldvision.org.ph

A WORLD Vision staff shows pictures of children in need to a new sponsor at the Gift of Hope booth in SM Megamall.

Why I'm the perfect Dyesebel for underwater photography

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

One way to destress is to view marine photos, preferably those showing Marc Nelson shirtless

SWISS underwater photographer Rolf Muehlemann and his first place-winning entry

EXCELLENT diver with a camera, Gutsy Tuason places second in both categories.

STILL on the ways to destress, going scuba-diving is for me excellent therapy. Seeing God's total creation with nothing manmade is breathtaking.

More so after watching "Finding Nemo"—one appreciates the expansive ocean filled with so many wonderful creatures. Viewing colorful underwater photos reminded me of the vast beauty seen while diving.

I was recently a judge at a photo contest of the Department of Tourism and Scuba Commission called "Watch Our Waterworld" (WOW). (Did you like that segue?) The only other judge I knew was super-abs hunk **Marc Nelson**.

We had a difficult time judging from over 500 entries. It was not hard, though, to judge whether Marc looked better with or without his shirt on. It was a good thing the other judges were professional photographers like **Gunther Deichmann** and **Eduviges Huang** to add to the technical side of the scoring.

The winners of the topside and underwater categories are now on exhibit at South Court, Power Plant Mall, Rockwell.

For the Underwater category, two dominated the awards. A Swiss residing in Dumaguete, **Rolf Muehlemann** bagged the first prize as well as 6th, 8th, 9th and 10th. Underwater photographer and ocean conservationist **Scott "Gutsy" Tuason** got the rest of the places except the fifth, which went to **Nonoy Tan**.

Gutsy recently had a slide-show presentation at Sanctum, a special kind of bar in Intramuros that features poetry reading.

For the Topside category, shots were mostly of islands and beach frontage. The Philippines can really be proud of its natural resources.

Dewey Sergio ran away with first, third and eighth places. Gutsy had an entry which placed second, denying Dewey a sweep.

For my next diving date, I will definitely tag along with Gutsy in hopes that at least my fin tips will be included in one of his excellent underwater photos. His entries are worth the visit to the mall.

As a reward for judging, the DOT gave me a free three-day stay at Balicasag Island Dive Resort. In travel agency parlance, it's called a "3D/2N" (three-day, two-night) stay, which is redundant since obviously one couldn't get to the additional days without spending the nights as well.

But never mind. After upgrading to an air-conditioned room and booking another room for my kids, my whole family headed to Bohol. (Horrors. Did the DOT actually expect little ol' *moi* to sleep in a non-aircon room?!?)

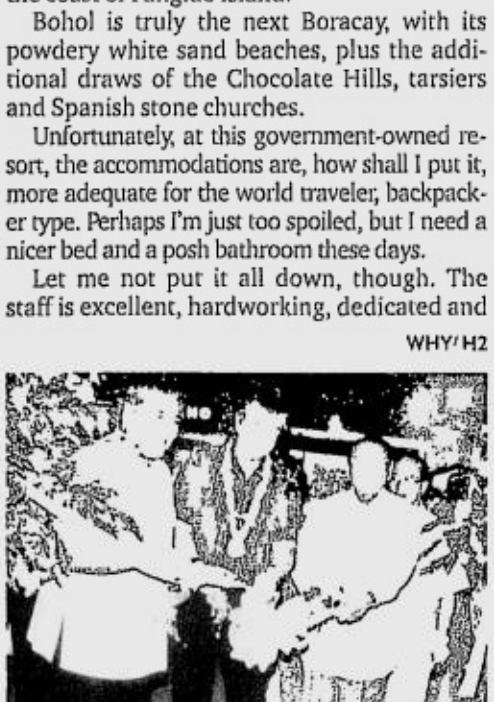
This would be an excellent way for us to celebrate my son **Tyrone**'s eighth birthday. We had never been to this little island, just off the coast of Panglao Island.

Bohol is truly the next Boracay, with its powdery white sand beaches, plus the additional draws of the Chocolate Hills, tarsiers and Spanish stone churches.

Unfortunately, at this government-owned resort, the accommodations are, how shall I put it, more adequate for the world traveler, backpacker type. Perhaps I'm just too spoiled, but I need a nicer bed and a posh bathroom these days.

Let me not put it all down, though. The staff is excellent, hardworking, dedicated and

WHY/ H2



RIBBON-CUTTING at the WOW exhibit. PCSSD director Raffy Pefianco, photographer Gunther Deichmann and Rep. Herminio Teves

AND THE WINNER IS... Sea Princess and Marc Nelson judging the entries to the WOW photo contest

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PHILIPPINE DAILY IN
Sunday LIFE

Why I'm the perfect Dyesebel for underwater photography

IT'S more beautiful underwater than above. Dennis Valdes, Balicasag divemaster Dole Arbotante and the Sea Princess in scuba gear

From page H1

quite underpaid.

In fact, I do want to greet divemaster/chef **Dole Arbotante**, an expert at what the resort's management euphemistically calls "multitasking." He showed us a school of jacks on our dive, then came up and cooked our dinner. What a guy!

So the next day, we abandoned the last half of our 3D/2N and transferred to the Alona Palm Resort, along the white-sand, palm-fringed beach front of Panglao.

What a wonderful discovery! My son Ty expressed it best, "It's perfect... sand, pool, TV!" The Alona Palm side of the island is like a quaint Boracay but with a lot of character.

It was great to see tourists, though only a handful. It was also great to see the PAL flight full and yet take off on time and have excellent service from the air crew. It's good to know somehow our islands are surviving during these difficult times.

Away from our shores, an excellent stress reliever is a couple of days in a health resort like Chiva-Som in Thailand, a resort devoted to the restoration of the mind and body through fitness, leisure activities, massage, health and wellness consultations.

SAND, sea, pool and TV. The ultra-relaxing Alona Palm beach resort

Late last year, my sister-in-law, **Myda Prieto**, who resides in wintry Michigan, had some extra time to trek to Bangkok during her summer vacation here with her kids. She was so amazed, exclaiming, "*Walang ganito sa* States!"

Instead of the usual shop-till-you-drop Bangkok trip, which we still managed to do at the last leg of the trip, we decided to spend five days in Chiva-Som.

With similar goals to lose weight and do some detoxification (all those martinis somehow settle into the system), this health resort was perfect for us. Of course, there are no real crash courses to healthy living, but it was a good break from all the processed food.

Aside from the choice of daily massage, fitness and leisure activities, the package came with three spa cuisine meals. And believe me, they were very delicious and filling. None of those bird-seed, coarse-tasting dishes my husband, **Dennis**, says I eat.

The food was either baked, broiled or steamed in vegetable broth. The drinks were an assortment of fruits and vegetables. Eating right can be tasty, too.

I plan to go back because they have new programs. One interesting package is this five-night Yoga Retreat to discover yoga or further enhance one's yoga skills. I still think I need focusing on the real meaning of life, which I know is not just shopping and chocolates.

The more I get into the practice, the more I need to free my mind from the physical world. It's just too difficult at times, especially when the new spring line of Prada comes out.

Yoga retreat

On the local scene, I did a yoga retreat, too, at the Nami Private Villas on Boracay. The place has a panoramic view of the ocean because it sits on top of a cliff.

To go to the resort, one has to take their outdoor elevator lift to the top. Of course, there is that initial scare, but once you're in it, the ride is enjoyable.

After all the yoga and meditation sessions, I spent the rest of the day under the skillful hands of **Yoga**, who must be the most excellently named masseuse anywhere. After those sessions, I did find the true meaning of life. But, unfortunately, I was in a deep sleep and quickly forgot.

With all the stresses life has to offer, we all need to allocate time to just turn away from work, get away to Bohol or someplace where we can focus on the things in life that are worth it: happiness, peace and love above all.

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

BEACH babes at the Nami Resort. Maui Pascual, Carissa Cruz and Barbie Pardo

ELEVATOR UP! Photographer Erik Liongoren (in yellow) going up with the very efficient Nami staff

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Pan-Grilled Chicken with Omelette Mushroom Rice

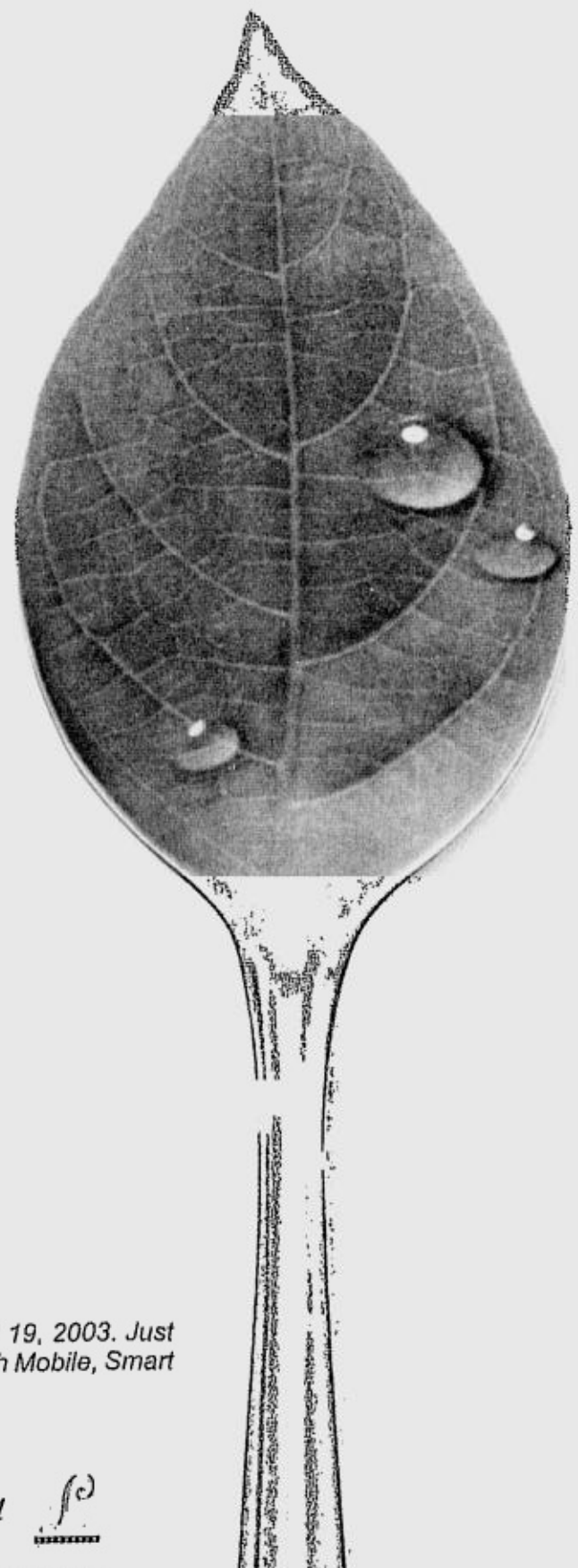
Soleil Cafe Moderne
Crabmeat Linguini with Spring Asparagus and Shellfish Bisque

Sugi Japanese Restaurant
Unagi Salmon Maki

Temple Bar & Restaurant
Prawns in Honey Lemon Sauce with Mango Summer Roll and Chili-Garlic Dip

Una Mas
Annato Marinated Chicken Breast with Chorizo Bread Stuffing, Saffron Rice & Chimichurri Sauce

Uva
Pan Seared Tilapia Fillets on Shrimp Risotto



Vote for your favorite dish / restaurant starting Oct 7 to Oct 19, 2003. Just text WWF POLL and send to 2366. Available to Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart and Talk N Text Subscribers. P2.50 for each message sent.

INQUIRER metro FOOD 92.3 PinoyCentral PHILIPS Gold Purefoods Hormel

SAND-COVERED birthday boy Tyrone Valdes with sister Annika on beautiful Panglao Beach

YOGA'S hands do wonders. Erik Liongoren took this picture of me enjoying a massage.

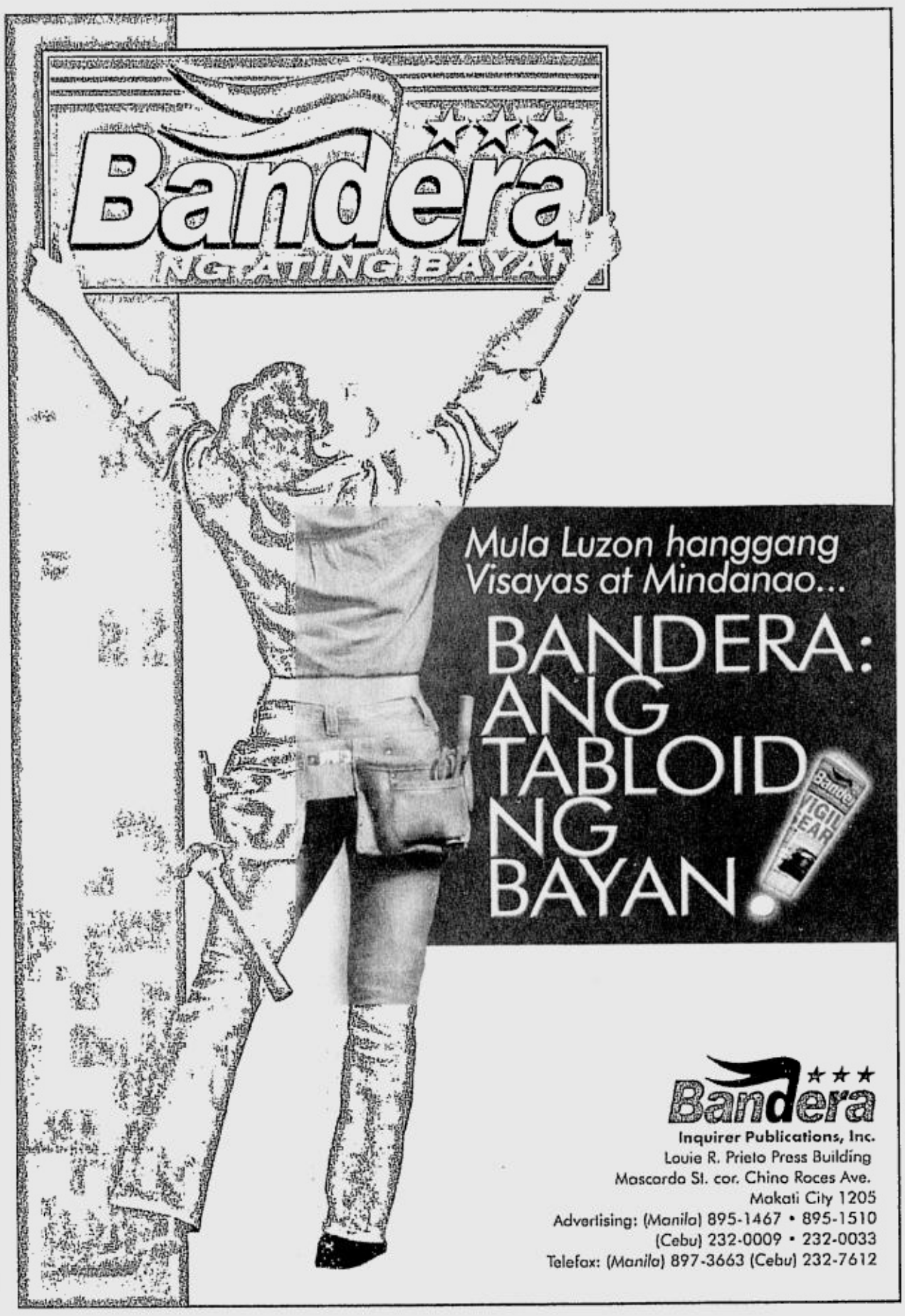
COURTESY OF SEAIR INFLIGHT MAGAZINE

OTHER beautiful day on acay. Nami Resort owner ese Ledesma and yoga ructor Bela Lipat

MMY on yoga break, Felicia nza with baby Jose

TEL Costes DJ David de ce getting some sun, sea and girls Gai Olivares and Rosan z

Bandera
NGATING BAYAN



Mula Luzon hanggang Visayas at Mindanao...
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DIABETES:
Life Changes for the Better

Dealing with Diabetes

When you were told, after a fasting glucose test, that you have diabetes, did a gateway in your mind open up, releasing a powerful current of tangled thoughts?

Bringing you back to the reality of the diagnosis, was your doctor taking you through the Next Steps. You may remember asking yourself "What now?" as if those "Next Steps" were not the answers.

Stages of Dealing

Information as jolting and life changing as being diagnosed with diabetes involves stages of dealing with change. According to Dr. Elisabeth Kübler-Ross*, a psychiatrist, initially there's Denial, then Anger, Bargaining, Depression and finally Acceptance.

DENIAL Denial at the onset is normal. It only becomes a problem when you stay in this phase too long, delaying you from learning more about your condition and the diabetes management and self-care that it requires.

ANGER You are angry at the whole world and blame everyone for your diabetes. To you, diabetes is an enemy. You are angry because you foresee how diabetes will change your life. Anger, in fact, is a defense against the fears and threats of diabetes and its complications. Anger stands in for all your anxieties.

BARGAINING Change has to start somewhere and it is usually here. You strike a deal with yourself. Pass up on dessert, start brisk-walking or give up chocolates. All seem a good enough deal to start with. But you know there's more to diabetes than these.

DEPRESSION Controlling one's blood glucose level and keeping it close to normal is toughest. Strict diet, mandatory exercises, regular check-ups and tests-tedious, making you feel hopeless. Getting stuck in this stage can also sabotage your management of your diabetes. Depression tempts you to give up all the "musts".

ACCEPTANCE You could simply wake up to a good morning and realize that there is life after diabetes. You are thinking more clearly. You are more comfortable facing the changes brought about by diabetes and you are now ready to look at the brightest side of life. You begin your "To Do" list.

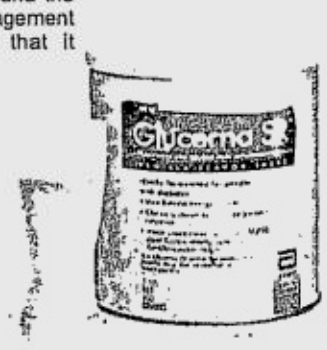
Where do you go from here?

There may still be cloudy days ahead but you know it is just a stage and you can always look forward to better days.

One practical solution to smile about is **Glucerna SR**! **Glucerna SR** is a convenient low-calorie meal or snack replacement for diabetics complete with all the essential vitamins and minerals. **SR** stands for slow release carbohydrate that results in a lower blood glucose level. The fat formulation is high in Mono-unsaturated Fatty Acids that help keep lipid levels in check and provide other benefits for cardiac health. It is also lactose-free and gluten-free with soluble fiber content is healthy for the gut. **Glucerna SR** is available in delicious buttery caramel vanilla flavor.

Needless to say, Acceptance opens you up to new interests and discoveries! Look around . . . you may even discover a new you!

*Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, M.D is a psychiatrist and the author of the groundbreaking On Death and Dying. According to her there are five stages that a dying person goes through when they are told that they have a terminal illness. This model has been used by other authors and applied to many other situations where someone suffers a loss or change in social identity. She has earned a place as the best-loved and most-respected authority on the subject



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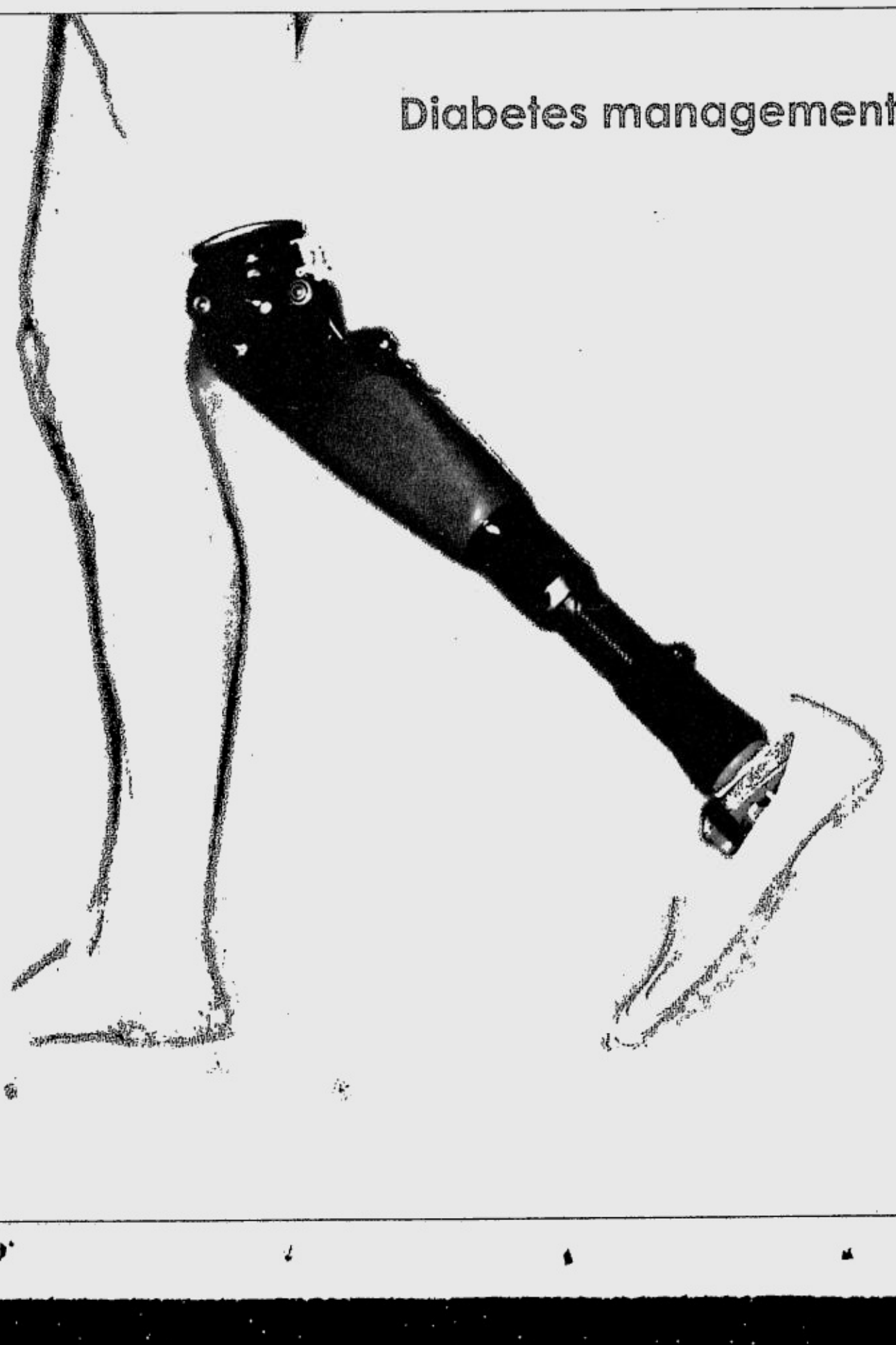

Diabetes management is not a walk in the park.

Uncontrolled blood sugar can lead to debilitating or severely damaging complications such as heart disease, blindness, kidney disease and amputations.

Take the first step in glucose control with Glucerna SR.

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Glucerna SR is a clinically-proven meal or snack replacement with the Slow Release carbohydrate system that helps keep blood sugar levels under control. Have a glass of Glucerna SR everyday.

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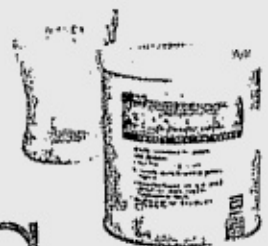

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Charity at the heart of glittering ball

ONE of the world's most prestigious social events, the Monaco Red Cross Ball, is held annually at the luxurious Salles des Etoiles of the Monaco Sporting Club. Over 1,000 guests pay over $1,000 each to attend the glittering gathering, which is hailed as Europe's largest and most prestigious charity event.

The same holds true with the other Red Cross Balls held in various cities all over the world.

For example, every year, the London branch of the Red Cross holds its charity ball, and the money raised contributes to the £4.5 million needed to continue the Red Cross' emergency response services in the city. The event is usually held at the Grosvenor House in the presence of Prince and Princess Michael of Kent and 1,000 members of British nobility and London society's upper crust.

In the United States, each of the major Red Cross chapters sponsors a Red Cross Ball of its very own. These balls are always well-attended and supported by the who's who of society.

All over the world, from Australia to the Bahamas, the Red Cross Balls have been phenomenally successful in bringing the glitterati together for a night of dance, dazzle and a deeper cause.

On Saturday, Oct. 25, it's Manila's turn as Bulgari presents the Philippine Red Cross Ball at the Makati Shangri-La Manila to raise funds for the projects of the Philippine National Red Cross.

The prizes on offer at the Bulgari Ball grand raffle (with Johnny Litton as master of ceremonies) are unique and personalized, especially the opportunity to have portraits done by well-known artist Lulu Coching Rodriguez and to be photographed by illustrious lensmen Don Jaime Zobel de Ayala and Rupert Jacinto.

Also to be raffled off are works of art from renowned Filipino painters Betsy Westendorp de Brias, Ramon Diaz of Galleria Duemila, Manuel Baldemor and Al Perez.

Other prizes include a Bulgari watch and handbags; seven-day cruises for two to Europe and other places aboard the Queen Elizabeth II, Italian liner Costa and Princess Cruises; a trip to a European city of your choice via Paris on Air France; a three-day weekend vacation for a family of four to Boracay Island complete with accommodations at Pearl of the Pacific Hotel and round trip airfare; and a three-day weekend vacation for two at El Nido Resort with round trip airfare.

Guests can also look forward to great music and dancing, and to a specially choreographed *rigodon de honor* showcasing fabulous designer gowns worn by the dancers. But these are not just ordinary dancers, as they will be representatives of the most illustrious families in the country.

Aside from Bulgari, the Philippine Red Cross Ball is also supported by Stores Specialists, Inc., Philippine Tatler, San Miguel Corporation, Cemex, The Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Princess Cruises, Luxasia and Silver Secrets, Inc.

Call 8978539 or 8969591 local 107.

CELEBRITY for a cause. Heartthrob Piolo Pascual does his bit for the Philippine National Red Cross by donating blood.

CAMBODIAN Ambassador EK Sereywath, Malaysian Ambassador Noor Taufik, Sonia Baide, Malaysian Senate President Abdal Hamid Pawantek and Mr. and Ms Gurroho

MARILYN Collette, Rep director Bibot Amador, Cesar Virata, Chilean Ambassador Carmen Lynam, Paz Yuchengco and Tessie Luz

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

Merdeka Day celebration, Rep's Shakespearean comedy

THE FEDERATION of Malaysia celebrated its Merdeka (Independence) Day last September at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel with a party hosted by Ambassador **Mohamed Taufik** and his wife, Minister **Zakiah Awang**.

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

Among the guests were members of the diplomatic corps such as Indian Ambassador **Navrekha Sharma**, Mexican Ambassador **Enrique Hubbard**, Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam**, Cambodian Ambassador and Mme. **EK Sereywath**, Cuban Ambassador **Ramon Alonso**, Egyptian Ambassador **Saber Mansour**, Australian Ambassador **Ruth Pearce**, and New Zealand Ambassador **Terry Baker**; Makati businessmen **Bill Luz**, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation chair **Roy Navarro**, **Cesar Virata**, **Greggy** and **Irene Araneta**, and **Efren Cruz**, president of Mutualife Philippines.

What was entertaining to watch was rumored presidential aspirant **Danding Cojuangco** arriving for a conference next door with a phalanx of security and the ubiquitous **Babes Romualdez**. The question was, why would you need Babes if you're not running?

* * *

For a change of pace, there was Repertory Philippines' presentation of the Bard's "Midsummer's Night Dream" with memorable performances by **Joy Virata** as Titania, queen of the fairies; **Jeremy Domingo** as Oberon and Puck, **Rem Zamora** as Puck and **Jamie Wilson** as Bottom.

Watch out for "Late Night Catechism" with **Bibot Amador** alternating with **Baby Barredo** as

MERDEKA / 13

DFA Usec. Frank Ebdalin, Chilean Ambassador Carmen Lynam and Msgr. Antonio Franco

GEORGE Araneta, Chinese Ambassador Wang Changhe, Frank Evaristo

UK Ambassador Paul Dimond, lawyer Ricardo Romulo, Ana Sobrepeña

ARGENTINIAN Ambassador Mario Schuff and Brunei Ambassador Maimunah Elias

UAE Ambassador Mohammad Ebrahim Al-Jowaid and Egyptian Ambassador Saber Mansour

FRANCISCO Tatad and Mexican Ambassador Enrique Hubbard

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4.	Samsonite Facelift Spinner 66cm	$126.00	$94
5.	Samsonite SPARK Facelift Upright 55cm	$102.00	$76.50
	Expandable Facelift Beauty Case	$36.00	$27.00
6.	Samsonite Cruisair Spinner 72cm	$190.50	$142.88
	All Samsonite items at 25% off		
	EXCLUSIVE ITEMS		
7.	Tommy Jeans for Him		$30.00
	Tommy Jeans for Her		$32.00
8.	Chris 1947		$38.00
9.	Lancome Amplicils Noirs (Mascara)		$56.00
10.	Clinique Surge of Colors Lipstick		$50.00

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TRAVEL

Editor Rosario A. Garcellano

The simple joys of Rio Chico

Text and photos by Maria Congee S. Gomez

A WALK through the ampalaya (bitter gourd) section of the Quitua farm

IN FILIPINO, "gayak" means "preparation," as for a gathering or a special occasion.

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To locate General Tinio, I had to rely on a friend's instructions. I took a Cabanatuan-bound bus and requested the driver to set me down in Gapan, specifically on a landmark they all call "intersection" (where, I was told, the jeepney bound for General Tinio is parked across from a waiting shed).

I was told to get to Gapan in time to catch the last trip at 5 p.m.; otherwise, I would have to return to Manila on the same day. The bus fare varies—P14 when it is a full house, P20 when there are not enough passengers but everyone is in a hurry to get home.

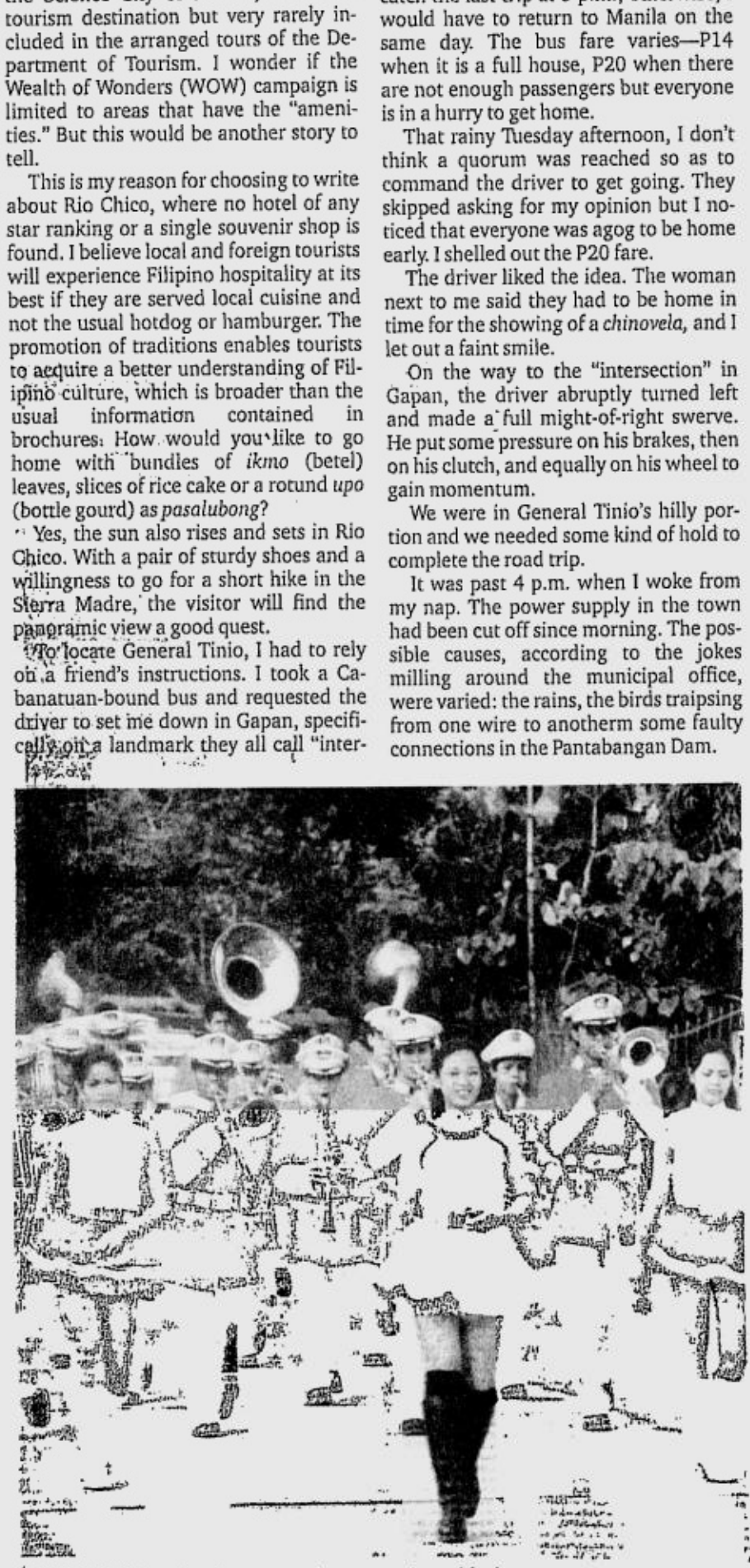
That rainy Tuesday afternoon, I don't think a quorum was reached so as to command the driver to get going. They skipped asking for my opinion but I noticed that everyone was agog to be home early. I shelled out the P20 fare.

The driver liked the idea. The woman next to me said they had to be home in time for the showing of a *chinovela,* and I let out a faint smile.

On the way to the "intersection" in Gapan, the driver abruptly turned left and made a full might-of-right swerve. He put some pressure on his brakes, then on his clutch, and equally on his wheel to gain momentum.

We were in General Tinio's hilly portion and we needed some kind of hold to complete the road trip.

It was past 4 p.m. when I woke from my nap. The power supply in the town had been cut off since morning. The possible causes, according to the jokes milling around the municipal office, were varied: the rains, the birds traipsing from one wire to another some faulty connections in the Pantabangan Dam.



MARCHING band and muses on the way to the poblacion

BY THE RIVER after which the village is named

Oczon had arranged for my stay in the residence of Roy Bulacan, barangay captain of Rio Chico (pop.: 1,538), home to Nueva Ecija's seven finest marching bands. (Next to agriculture, a marching band is what most of the menfolk seriously dream of joining.)

Immediately I find the barangay a potential component in the farm tour of Nueva Ecija. There are pasture lands for murrah buffaloes. The climate is ideal. The vast hilly terrain is devoted to vegetable gardens, and the flat stretches, to the orchard business.

Successful entrepreneur Eddie Bulacan opened his farms as a destination that day.

Eddie had initially bought two hectares in Sitio Sibug and planted *ampalaya* (bitter gourd), *upo* and *sitaw* (yard-long beans).

He said he had yet to try his luck in raising livestock because he considered vegetable gardening his "first love." He said he "could not live" with other sources of income.

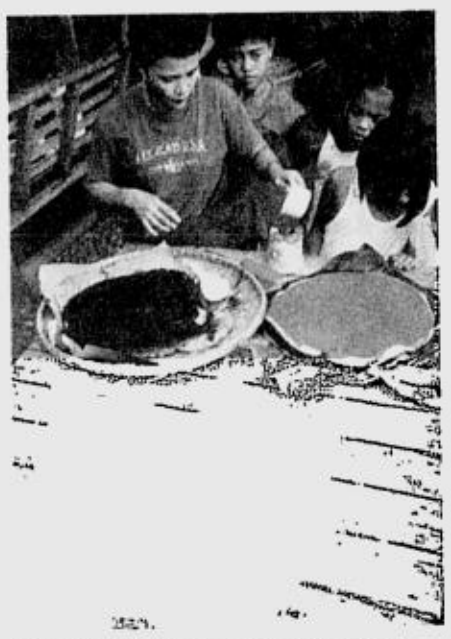
He has found a "gold mine" selling his produce at the Magsaysay Market in Barangay Sangitan, Cabanatuan, but the other farmers of Rio Chico do business in far-off Divisoria in Manila.

We rode Eddie's yellow 10-wheel truck to get the feel of the farms. The weather was highly cooperative but dipped to 18 degrees at 6 a.m., and I had to put on a jacket.

The thick fog blocked our vision while Eddie's son waged a battle with the feeder road, performing tough maneuvers to lift the tires from the loam-covered cracks. Good thing Eddie knew the road like the back of his hand; otherwise, we would have found ourselves in deep holes.

Every time Marilyn Oczon heard me comparing the terrain with the hillsides of Baguio City, Kalinga-Apayao, and some portions of Benguet, she would remind me that I was in Nueva Ecija.

Eddie was a picture of contentment in talking about his success. But his mood changed in confessing that part of this success came from selling "hot logs."



CULINARY pleasures: from the plain white to the royal purple

He said he used the money to buy expensive vehicles, motorcycles and big trucks, and a portion to fuel a political ambition in the last election.

Municipal Administrator Rogelio Manabat had no direct explanation for Eddie's case and did not admit that the local government of General Tinio ever consented to illegal logging activities.

But by the tone of his answers, Manabat sounded like illegal logging in Rio Chico was tolerated at best. "*Eh pa'nong gagawin natin, mahirap lang kami dito* (What are we supposed to do, we're poor here)?"

Even Mayor Virgilio Bote reportedly once bought hot logs from a family whose mother wept in front of him with a sick child in her arms.

But the Pistang Kalamay is not affected by issues involving hot logs, poverty, or petty troubles. Yes, things modern co-exist with the traditional ones, and do not obliterate the celebration of the feast.

At Roy's residence in Sitio Kumbenyo, the day started with working the dough-like mixture. His mother, 67-year-old Turing, commanded the male population of the household to perfect the mix, although she herself could not directly explain the relation of the *kalamay* with St. Augustine.

"The occasion is to honor him, our patron saint," she said simply. "St. Augustine protects our farms from natural and man-made calamities. It is only fitting that we celebrate his feast day."

Grinding the glutinous rice starts as early as 2:30 a.m. (The basic preparation commences with washing the rice, draining it and then grinding it.)

Good kneading is required to produce a smooth, dough-like mixture.

Meanwhile, milk is extracted from grated coconuts and then boiled in a wok with white or brown sugar.

The molded rice balls are dropped into the boiling mixture (they float when cooked).

The folk of Rio Chico prepare three types of *kalamay:* special, with bits of *langka* (jackfruit); with coconut; and silangan-style, purple in color with generous portions of *bucayo*(sweetened shredded coconut) on top.

Apart from the *kalamay*, each household prepares an array of meat and chicken dishes.

But let's be clear: Rio Chico is not just a countryside outpost. It bustles with the creed, custom and code that characterize the Filipino common *tao*. I believe the travelers by heart will warm to its spirit of *bayanihan*. I believe they will experience the hospitality that is so rare in the usual arranged tours.

Yes, the so-called amenities are nonexistent. It is advisable to contact the municipal office of General Tinio for an arranged home stay.

If you venture on a farm tour, expect the simple things to be part of it. After all, good travel memories are often made up of the remote and beyond.

TRAVELBRIEFS

New flights

KOREAN carrier Asiana Airlines (OZ) will start flights from the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, Pampanga, to its headquarters at the Incheon International Airport in Seoul on Oct. 30.

Asiana will fly economy- and business-class passengers out of Clark twice a week in a brand-new 177-seat Airbus A321. A branch office in Clark will assist passengers with ticketing and reservations.

With the additional flights, the airline will fly out of the Philippines to Seoul a total of nine times a week.

Asiana regional manager Hyun Il Kim said the new flights would contribute to the promotion of local tourism and international relations, and attract the growing Korean community of students, tourists, business people and missionaries in the North.

The airline is preparing tour packages with local travel agencies featuring golf, sightseeing, diving and other tourist activities.

Asiana said that while other airlines had reported crippling losses from recent world events, it had been operating steadily and continuing to fly to 64 destinations in 15 countries worldwide.

It recently added to its destinations Auckland in New Zealand, Kamamoto in Japan and Hanoi in Vietnam.

Study tour

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Librarians and Information Specialists is organizing a study tour of Malaysia with a side trip to Sentosa Island in Singapore via Subic Bay on Nov. 26-28.

The itinerary includes visits to various educational institutions and entertainment places.

For reservations, call 724-1994, 527-9672, 0919-7910021, 0917-8266929, or 0916-7120341 or e-mail esbmpsplib@myownemail.com.

Ibalong Festival

LEGAZPI City has been transformed into a huge theater for folk art for its Ibalong Festival.

The festival—a revival of the 18th-century epic poem about the pre-Spanish civilization of the land called Ibalong, or the present-day Bicol region—will be highlighted by a street presentation on Oct. 18 recreating the epic's important chapters.

Other activities in the month-long celebration are sporting events, a garden show, a beauty pageant, a trade fair of local products, musical concerts featuring show-biz personalities, a recognition program for outstanding Bicolanos, and various socio-civic and novelty activities.

The festival was initiated in 1992 by then Legazpi Mayor and now Unesco Commissioner Imelda Roces in an effort to instill among Bicolanos a sense of identity and pride.

For inquiries, call Ninibeth Cabigao, head of the festival executive committee, at 052-2455855, 052-8203679 or 0917-3241566.

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To locate General Tinio, I had to rely on a friend's instructions. I took a Cabanatuan-bound bus and requested the driver to set me down in Gapan, specifically on a landmark they all call "intersection" (where, I was told, the jeepney bound for General Tinio is parked across from a waiting shed).

A WALK through the ampalaya (bitter gourd) section of the Quitua farm

I was told to get to Gapan in time to catch the last trip at 5 p.m.; otherwise, I would have to return to Manila on the same day. The bus fare varies—P14 when it is a full house, P20 when there are not enough passengers but everyone is in a hurry to get home.

That rainy Tuesday afternoon, I don't think a quorum was reached so as to command the driver to get going. They skipped asking for my opinion but I noticed that everyone was agog to be home early. I shelled out the P20 fare.

The driver liked the idea. The woman next to me said they had to be home in time for the showing of a *chinovela,* and I let out a faint smile.

On the way to the "intersection" in Gapan, the driver abruptly turned left and made a full might-of-right swerve. He put some pressure on his brakes, then on his clutch, and equally on his wheel to gain momentum.

We were in General Tinio's hilly portion and we needed some kind of hold to complete the road trip.

It was past 4 p.m. when I woke from my nap. The power supply in the town had been cut off since morning. The possible causes, according to the jokes milling around the municipal office, were varied: the rains, the birds traipsing from one wire to anotherm some faulty connections in the Pantabangan Dam.

BY THE RIVER after which the village is named

Oczon had arranged for my stay in the residence of Roy Bulacan, barangay captain of Rio Chico (pop.: 1,538), home to Nueva Ecija's seven finest marching bands. (Next to agriculture, a marching band is what most of the menfolk seriously dream of joining.)

Immediately I find the barangay a potential component in the farm tour of Nueva Ecija. There are pasture lands for murrah buffaloes. The climate is ideal. The vast hilly terrain is devoted to vegetable gardens, and the flat stretches, to the orchard business.

Successful entrepreneur Eddie Bulacan opened his farms as a destination that day.

Eddie had initially bought two hectares in Sitio Sibug and planted *ampalaya* (bitter gourd), *upo* and *sitaw* (yard-long beans).

He said he had yet to try his luck in raising livestock because he considered vegetable gardening his "first love." He said he "could not live" with other sources of income.

He has found a "gold mine" selling his produce at the Magsaysay Market in Barangay Sangitan, Cabanatuan, but the other farmers of Rio Chico do business in far-off Divisoria in Manila.

We rode Eddie's yellow 10-wheel truck to get the feel of the farms. The weather was highly cooperative but dipped to 18 degrees at 6 a.m., and I had to put on a jacket.

The thick fog blocked our vision while Eddie's son waged a battle with the feeder road, performing tough maneuvers to lift the tires from the loam-covered cracks. Good thing Eddie knew the road like the back of his hand; otherwise, we would have found ourselves in deep holes.

Every time Marilyn Oczon heard me comparing the terrain with the hillsides of Baguio City, Kalinga-Apayao, and some portions of Benguet, she would remind me that I was in Nueva Ecija.

Eddie was a picture of contentment in talking about his success. But his mood changed in confessing that part of this success came from selling "hot logs."

CULINARY pleasures: from the plain white to the royal purple

He said he used the money to buy expensive vehicles, motorcycles and big trucks, and a portion to fuel a political ambition in the last election.

Municipal Administrator Rogelio Manabat had no direct explanation for Eddie's case and did not admit that the local government of General Tinio ever consented to illegal logging activities.

But by the tone of his answers, Manabat sounded like illegal logging in Rio Chico was tolerated at best. "*Eh pa'nong gagawin natin, mahirap lang kami dito* (What are we supposed to do, we're poor here)?"

Even Mayor Virgilio Bote reportedly once bought hot logs from a family whose mother wept in front of him with a sick child in her arms.

But the Pistang Kalamay is not affected by issues involving hot logs, poverty, or petty troubles. Yes, things modern co-exist with the traditional ones, and do not obliterate the celebration of the feast.

At Roy's residence in Sitio Kumbenyo, the day started with working the dough-like mixture. His mother, 67-year-old Turing, commanded the male population of the household to perfect the mix, although she herself could not directly explain the relation of the *kalamay* with St. Augustine.

"The occasion is to honor him, our patron saint," she said simply. "St. Augustine protects our farms from natural and man-made calamities. It is only fitting that we celebrate his feast day."

Grinding the glutinous rice starts as early as 2:30 a.m. (The basic preparation commences with washing the rice, draining it and then grinding it.)

Good kneading is required to produce a smooth, dough-like mixture.

Meanwhile, milk is extracted from grated coconuts and then boiled in a wok with white or brown sugar.

The molded rice balls are dropped into the boiling mixture (they float when cooked).

The folk of Rio Chico prepare three types of *kalamay:* special, with bits of *langka* (jackfruit); with coconut; and silangan-style, purple in color with generous portions of *bucayo*(sweetened shredded coconut) on top.

Apart from the *kalamay*, each household prepares an array of meat and chicken dishes.

But let's be clear: Rio Chico is not just a countryside outpost. It bustles with the creed, custom and code that characterize the Filipino common *tao*. I believe the travelers by heart will warm to its spirit of *bayanihan*. I believe they will experience the hospitality that is so rare in the usual arranged tours.

Yes, the so-called amenities are nonexistent. It is advisable to contact the municipal office of General Tinio for an arranged home stay.

If you venture on a farm tour, expect the simple things to be part of it. After all, good travel memories are often made up of the remote and beyond.

MARCHING band and muses on the way to the poblacion

TRAVELBRIEFS

New flights

KOREAN carrier Asiana Airlines (OZ) will start flights from the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport in Clark, Pampanga, to its headquarters at the Incheon International Airport in Seoul on Oct. 30.

Asiana will fly economy- and business-class passengers out of Clark twice a week in a brand-new 177-seat Airbus A321. A branch office in Clark will assist passengers with ticketing and reservations.

With the additional flights, the airline will fly out of the Philippines to Seoul a total of nine times a week.

Asiana regional manager Hyun Il Kim said the new flights would contribute to the promotion of local tourism and international relations, and attract the growing Korean community of students, tourists, business people and missionaries in the North.

The airline is preparing tour packages with local travel agencies featuring golf, sightseeing, diving and other tourist activities.

Asiana said that while other airlines had reported crippling losses from recent world events, it had been operating steadily and continuing to fly to 64 destinations in 15 countries worldwide.

It recently added to its destinations Auckland in New Zealand, Kamamoto in Japan and Hanoi in Vietnam.

Study tour

THE PHILIPPINE Society of Librarians and Information Specialists is organizing a study tour of Malaysia with a side trip to Sentosa Island in Singapore via Subic Bay on Nov. 26-28.

The itinerary includes visits to various educational institutions and entertainment places.

For reservations, call 724-1994, 527-9672, 0919-7910021, 0917-8266929, or 0916-7120341 or e-mail esbmpsplib@myownemail.com.

Ibalong Festival

LEGAZPI City has been transformed into a huge theater for folk art for its Ibalong Festival.

The festival—a revival of the 18th-century epic poem about the pre-Spanish civilization of the land called Ibalong, or the present-day Bicol region—will be highlighted by a street presentation on Oct. 18 recreating the epic's important chapters.

Other activities in the month-long celebration are sporting events, a garden show, a beauty pageant, a trade fair of local products, musical concerts featuring show-biz personalities, a recognition program for outstanding Bicolanos, and various socio-civic and novelty activities.

The festival was initiated in 1992 by then Legazpi Mayor and now Unesco Commissioner Imelda Roces in an effort to instill among Bicolanos a sense of identity and pride.

For inquiries, call Ninibeth Cabigao, head of the festival executive committee, at 052-2455855, 052-8203679 or 0917 3241566.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Merdeka Day celebration, Rep's Shakespearean . . .

From page I I

Mother Superior this month. The show is produced by **Carmita Francisco** and **Margie Floirendo.**

* * *

Gracious Chilean Ambassador **Carmen Lynam** hosted Chile's National Day celebration at the ballroom of the InterCon on the same evening that **Linda Panlilio** was opening her exhibit at the lobby of the same hotel—a blessing for guests. Those attending the opening of the European Film Festival that same evening at The Podium in Ortigas weren't so lucky.

Guests at the Chilean affair such as **Louie** and **Melly Ablaza**; Consuls **Fausto Preysler, Evie Costa** and **Fortune Ledesma**; **Mita** and **Tony Rufino, Olga Martel,** Dr. **Sonny** and **Helen Ong,** kept busy enjoying sparkling Chilean wines and other culinary delights. Members of the diplomatic corps present included Chinese Ambassador **Wang Changhe,** Venezuelan Ambassador **Milena Ramirez,** Peruvian Ambassador **Jorge Chavez,** Myanmar Ambassador and Mme. **U Tin Htun,** Cambodian Ambassador and Mme. **EK Sereywath,** and Thai Ambassador **Busba Bunaag.**

* * *

Linda Panlilio keeps reinventing herself. She is now officially a painter—although she has always been an artist—after her exhibit of "Doors" at the InterCon. Friends who attended her exhibit like **Rita Ledesma, Maritess Pineda** and **Lor Calma** were delighted at the diverse talents of Linda, who has still another project on the works—a book on comfort foods due out later this year. Congratulations to a super achiever who sets no limits on herself.

HOTEL InterCon GM Stefan Vongel, Linda Panlilio, Rita Ledesma and Dr. Jaime Laya

Giving the new Cream Silk commercial 100%!

Cream Silk's new endorser, a 100% super beautiful choice

Cream Silk Pro-Moist Conditioner has just launched a new TV commercial featuring its new endorser, Ms. Lea Salonga. The multi-awarded international actress and singer is a perfect fit for a brand that is also purely Filipino and equally world-class.

As Lea herself says, "The thing that attracted me was that Cream Silk was a uniquely Filipino brand. Unlike many other hair care brands that were introduced from other markets around the world, Cream Silk is a brand created, marketed and used solely by Filipinos. It's a world class product, one that's obviously trusted by many Filipinas, so why not stand behind a brand like that?"

Cream Silk is in fact the undisputed market leader in the conditioner market and has long been trusted by Filipinas to give them hair that's super soft, smooth, and shiny... hair that's 100% super beautiful!

The "100%" Commercial

Set in a theater, the commercial begins with a scene of Lea rehearsing a musical number. The director applauds when the number ends, but Lea asks if she can do the routine one more time. She then speaks to the camera and says, "If I feel like I am not 100%, it's not good enough for me." The next scene shows Lea in her dressing room examining her beautifully conditioned hair. She then shares her secret... to make sure her hair is also at it's 100% best, she doesn't just stop at shampooing, she always uses Cream Silk Pro-Moist Conditioner after. Only then can she be sure that her hair is 100% soft, smooth, and beautiful...100% expertly conditioned. In the end of the commercial, we see a grand singing and dancing sequence showing Lea giving a 100% performance with her 100% beautifully conditioned hair.

The commercial was inspired by Lea herself. The creative team from ad agency, J. Walter Thompson, developed the storyboard with Lea's personality and reputed work ethic in mind. "We figured that she was a perfectionist, that's why she was so good at what she did" shares Creative Director, Leo Gonzalez. "We thought we'd show that side of her and relate it to how she took care of her hair... that she wouldn't settle for less than the 100% beauty only Cream Silk could give," pipes in art director, Marge Melendez.

When asked what she thought of the TV commercial's concept, Lea says, "Oh gee! I was flattered when I first saw the storyboards, and I wasn't sure that I could live up to the expectations (I mean, when was the last time I danced on camera?!). But thankfully, everything turned out okay, and I think it's a pretty accurate representation of my work ethic and my philosophy, that good enough just isn't good enough."

The 100% Fun Shoot

The commercial took three days to shoot and for all involved, it was one of the most fun shooting experiences they've ever had. The first two days were shot on location in the spacious and well-maintained GSIS theatre, and the last day was done in the production house's studio (Filmex). All three days were filled with laughter and memorable moments.

Director Ricky Villabona has this to share about those days, "It was one of the easiest shoots I have ever had, and I'm not saying this just because people will be reading this. I've had shoots with celebrities I would rather forget, but this one was an exception. I was taking snapshots all over the place. I was having too much fun to the point of feeling guilty about it. My friends and family might want to know that I did some cameos in my shoot. I don't usually do that, but I guess that just proves that I really was having fun in the shoot."

Another director was actually also on the set. Bobby Garcia, accomplished theater director, played a real-life role as Lea's director in the commercial. (He was Lea's director for the Miss Saigon run in Manila, Proof, The Broadway Concert, and Songs from Home concert.) He says that while he felt a little weird at first being directed instead of directing, he got the hang of it and ended up enjoying himself. Bobby remembers, "Shooting the Cream Silk commercial was a lot of fun. A lot of the people in the commercial were people both Lea and I have worked with before so it was all very familiar. Plus the venue we were shooting in is a theatre I have used numerous times before (and Lea as well), so we were very comfortable. I remember laughing so much throughout the shoot."

To make it realistic, not only Bobby Garcia was asked to co-star with Lea on the commercial's "stage production". Real theatre actors and dancers played the chorus performing with Lea. One of them was veteran theatre actor and improv comedian, Joel Trinidad. Also an experienced commercial talent, he says "this is possibly the most fun shoot I have ever experienced."

There were many moments that were 100% memorable. Lea shares a favorite instance, "On our third day of shooting, one scene was set in a dressing room with me doing various hair shots. In the scene, the director had different people coming through a door. For one take, RS Francisco (the assistant director) and Ricky Villabona came through the door, wearing the most outrageous headgear. (showgirl headdresses!) The minute I saw them in their wacky get-ups, I started laughing and laughing... I'm not sure we were able to get hair shots from that take!"

Director Ricky Villabona cannot forget the moment that Lea sang for the whole cast and crew. "One time when there was a lull during the shoot and RS managed to coax Lea to sing 'Nandito Ako' for us. It was not on stage even. They were seated among us in the theater, and RS broke into this hosting bit and asked Lea if she could sing a few lines of the song while we were waiting for the next shot to be set up. Lea obliged easily."

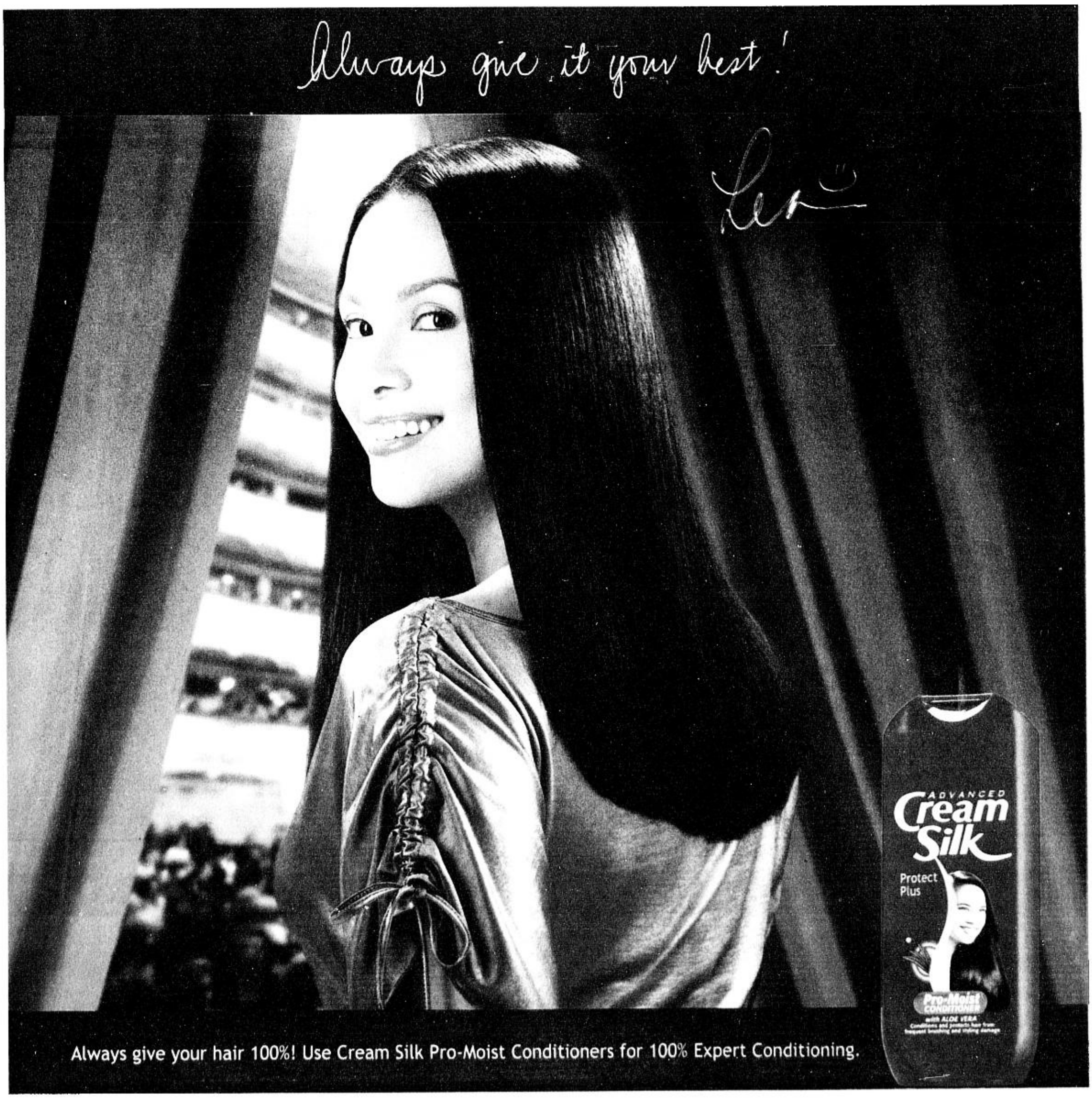
The song called "100%"

An original song was composed for Lea to sing in the commercial's "musical". In the beginning of the TVC she sings the line, "Be the best me that I can be!" And that is what the song is essentially about, giving 100% in everything that you do. Just like Cream Silk Pro-Moist Conditioners that always give 100% conditioning. The lyrics were written by J. Walter Thompson copywriter, Kat Gomez, and the music was made by hit-maker Loule Ocampo. Though only a short part of the song is heard in the commercial, the full song will be aired on the radio and included in a compilation album.

100% Performers

Cream Silk Pro-Moist Conditioners guarantee hair that's 100% expertly conditioned, beautiful through and through! And Lea? Director Ricky Villabona put it so well, "When you talk about someone giving her '100 percent', who else would you get? It was a very obvious choice. Here, you have a very accomplished actor, singer and celebrity who certainly gives her all in everything she does." Because they always give 100%, Cream Silk and Lea always give super beautiful performances!

ADVT



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NDD	P9.50	P10.00	P9.50	P10.00	P9.00	P9.50	P8.50	P9.00	P8.50	P9.00
IDD	$0.30	$ 0.30	$0.30	$ 0.30	$0.30	$ 0.30	$0.30	$ 0.30	$0.30	$ 0.30
SMS RATES										
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Sun to other mobiles	P1.00	P1.00	P1.00	P1.00	P1.00	P1.00	P1.00	P1.00	P1.00	P1.00

One-stop shop for memorable weddings

CRISTINA Gonzalez-Romualdez

PATIO Victoria, an idea born out of Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez's love for weddings, has become a one-stop shop for harassed brides.

The place started as a venue for weddings but Romualdez saw the need to provide other services, such as providing the cake and flowers to lessen the bride's worries. Patio Victoria at 5435 Gen. Luna corner Victoria Sts., Intramuros, now has in-house florists and bakers.

Romualdez developed the venue for garden and indoor weddings because she believed every woman should have a wedding she worth remembering throughout her life.

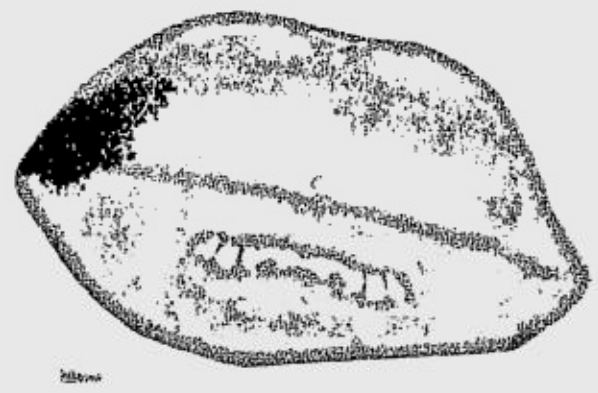
Patio Victoria shares the Old World charm of the the Walled City. Cobblestone walkways, antique wooden gate, lush foliage and old-fashioned fountain are some of the features that make the place ideal for weddings.

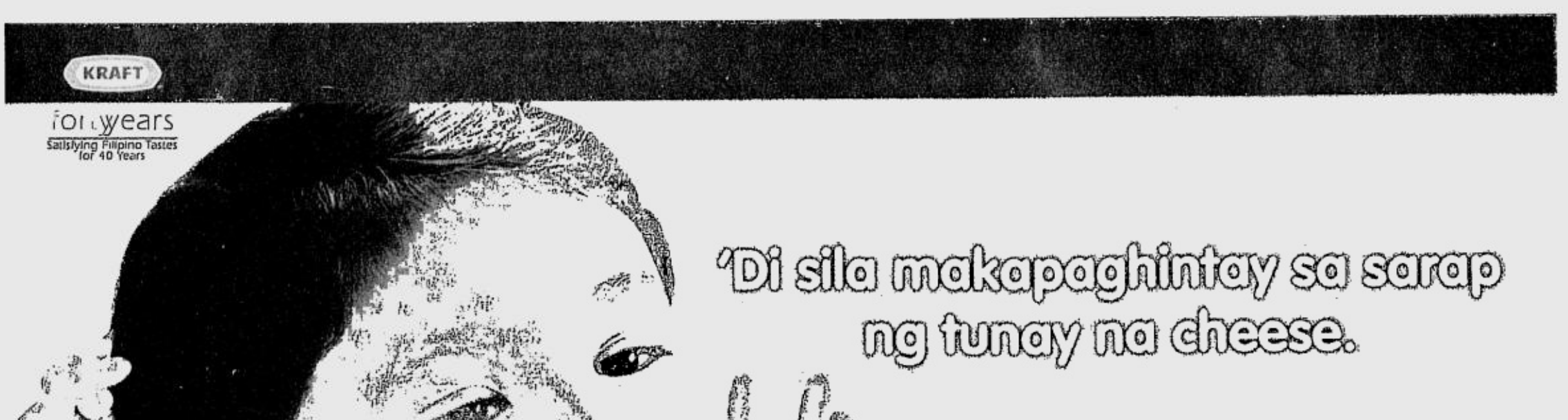
Worry free

With two gardens, named after Romualdez's daughters Sofia and Diana, and an air-conditioned banquet hall, Patio Victoria can accommodate up to 1,000 guests.

Both gardens have gazebos to protect guests from the sun and light rain. In case of

ONE-STOP/ J4





WITH THEIR PARENTS, Mar and Nina Aguas and Tony and Gail Alvarez

ALVAREZ-AGUAS NUPTIALS

Love blooms above the clouds

By Maurice Arcache

WHO would have expected to meet his significant other in a plane?

Well, that was exactly what happened to handsome Nick Alvarez, son of Tonichi and Gail Alvarez of New York, and eyecatching beauty Maria Nina (Marni to her pals) Aguas, daughter of mega businessman Mar Aguas and Citibank's country business manager, brilliant woman of substance and style Nina Datu.

Nick was in a hurry to return to the US of A. He had a new assignment and he wanted to get started right away. He made a beeline for the lone computer terminal in the Philippine Airlines' business lounge, wondering why the temperature was sub-zero.

Suddenly a small voice interrupted him. "Excuse me, are you going to be done soon?"

Nick glanced back and saw a red jacket. He finished his last e-mail and, as he stood up to leave, he noticed that the girl waiting in line was cute.

The girl was Marni. She was in a blue mood that day because she had just spent three weeks with her famille and now had to go back to Los Angeles for another semester at the University of Southern California. She needed a distraction. Thank God for e-mail.

After 20 minutes debating with himself whether to approach her or not, Nick decided to leave the lounge. But he waited for her as he browsed in the gift shop.

After five minutes, he heard an announcement asking LA-bound passengers to board their plane. He espied her red jacket as she walked towards the gate for the LA flight.

'Brilliant' intro line

"Yes! She will be in my flight," Nick thought. He allowed her to get ahead of him while a little voice kept telling him, "Say something, say something."

At a loss for words, he looked at her again and spotted her sneakers. "Excuse me," he said, "are you a gymnast? Because you have the body of a gymnast!"

As soon he said that, Nick wanted to disappear. The little voice started screaming, "Abort! Abort!" Marni turned around and focused on him for the first time. She smiled uneasily, murmured "No" and walked hurriedly to the plane. She prayed silently, "God, please don't let me sit next to someone like him, please."

Nick's thoughts mirrored hers. "Don't make me sit next to her." But Cupid had other plans in mind. There were two seats left in the first class cabin, 4E and 4F. As soon as Nick entered the cabin, he espied Marni's red jacket draped on 4F. He thought to himself, "Oh, oh, this is not just coincidence."

Marni had an idea. To keep him from talking to her during the flight, she collected magazines and books to occupy herself during the 14-hour flight.

It worked for the first 20 minutes. Then Nick finally asked, "So, what were you doing in the Philippines?"

Cupid hits the bull's eye

Marni answered and, for the rest of the flight, her reading was forgotten. When the plane landed, they had each other's phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Bingo! Cupid's romantic arrow had hit the bull's eye.

OUR LATEST Mr. and Ms, Nina and Nick Alvarez

Now, if that ain't fate, *palanggas*, what is?

Fast forward to August 2003. The whirlwind romance ended with Marni looking every inch the radiant bride in a simple, classic gown encrusted with crystal by Cantu and Castillo of New York.

The entourage, including the mother of the bride, looked stunning in fire-engine red gowns by Parrish Espiritu Carlos.

Hotshot principal sponsors were Rey Datu and Genoviva Chivi, Vidal Aguas and Willette de Guzman, Charlie and Caroline Alindada, Felix and Tess Amparo, Nathaniel and Dolly Chivi, Ed Clemente and Teresita de Castro, Boyong and Tessie Deles, Eduardo and Pilar Gaspar, Ramon and Macline Labitigan, Rei and Dolly Lacson, Brian Marsal and Alicia Pangilinan and Frank Sapienza and Manina Chivi.

The wedding reception for 400 guests was held at the Main Dining Hall and Turf Room of the chi-chi horse-y set, the Manila Polo Club. The reception area was filled with white flowers everywhere and draped with yards of white gossamer cloth, creating an airy and relaxed atmosphere.

Floral stylist Robert Blancaflor of 1816 Flowers enhanced the already grand polo club and gave it a Tavern-on-the-Square look, reminiscent of the place where Marni and Nick used to date.

Tall ivory candles on silver candelabras and white votive candles provided mood lighting. Guests sat on formal Tiffany chairs as they enjoyed the sumptuous dinner catered by Makati Skyline.

Singing and dancing

The program started off with a special song number by a brother of the groom, Tone Alvarez. The bride and groom surprised each other with song numbers that had the guests whistling and applauding.

An audio-visual presentation told the love story of the new couple. It was followed by a dance number by the bride's siblings, Ana, Carla, Merk and Ryan.

As in most weddings, sentimental toasts were made by the brother of the groom and best man, Victor Alvarez, and the maid of honor and sister of the bride, Ana Aguas.

The couple then cut their eyecatching and yummy wedding cake by Penk Ching of Pastry Bin.

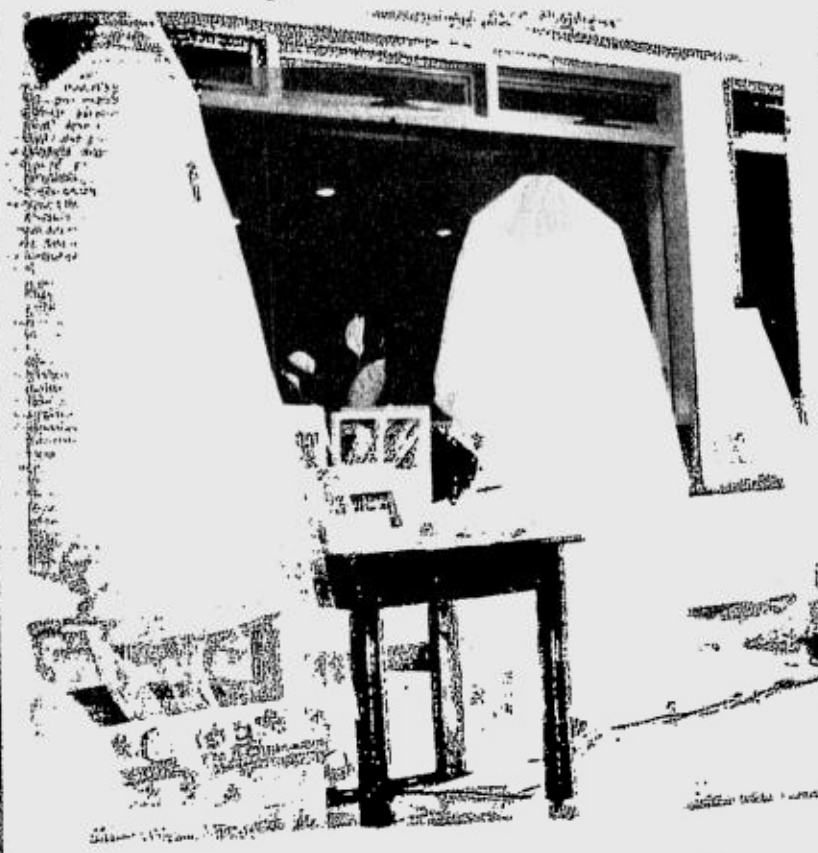
For something different, the beautiful couple paid tribute to their mothers and offered them bouquets. Dancing followed, with the guests rocking the floor to the swinging sounds of Nonoy Lopez and his band.

The superb wedding planning and coordination by Ernest Pascual and Cookie Amador of Events were noticed and admired by everyone, *palanggas*.

Remember, *palanggas*, "when you think of all that Jesus Christ has done for you, you'll want to do your best for Him."

NEW YORK'S Alvarez famille: Gail, Tony, Monica, the newlyweds, Tony II, Victor, DeRohn Jr. and Nini

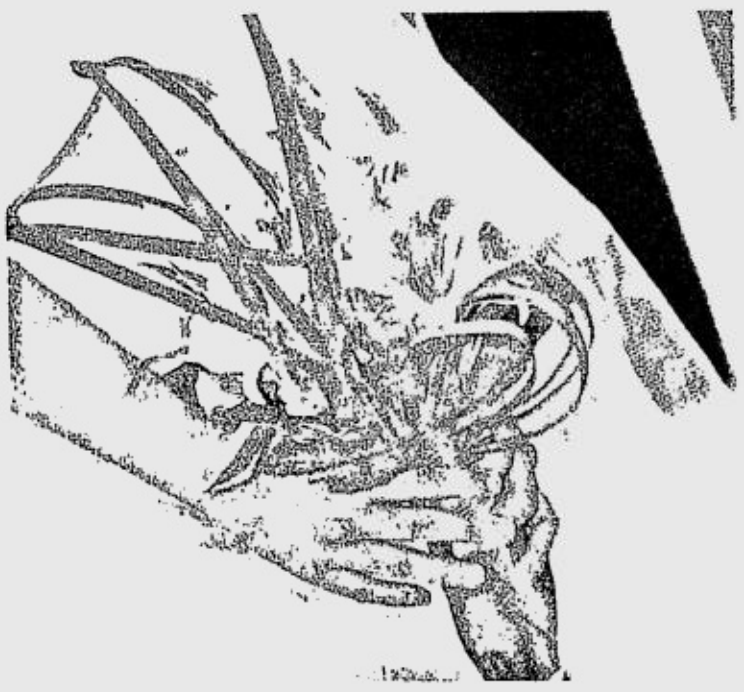
WITH THEIR PRINCIPAL SPONSORS: (first row) Tessie Deles, Genny Chivi, Macline Labitigan, Dolly Lacson, Willette de Guzman, Dr. Tess de Castro, Alice Pangilinan, Tess Amparo, Caroline Alindada, Ed Clemente, Rey Datu, Vidal Aguas, Ramon Labitigan, Felix Amparo and Boyong Deles; (second row) Manina Chivi, Pie Gaspar, Dolly Chivi, Brian Marsal, Charlie Alindada, Nathaniel Chivi, Rei Lacson, Ed Gaspar and Frank Sapienza



PAUL Mateos

FANNY Serrano

Showcase of Filipino wedding essentials and traditions



PAUL Mateos

CELEBRATE the joys and traditions of the Filipino wedding in Kasalang Filipino, the first national bridal fair road show held in 10 cities in the country. Kasalang Filipino features the best of Philippine wedding essentials and services and highlights Filipino wedding customs and traditions.

Kasalang Filipino recently opened at Amigo Terrace Hotel, Iloilo City. Opening the fair was a fashion show featuring the collections of noted Ilonggo designers. Fanny Serrano treated the fair-goers to a special demonstration on bridal makeup using his own makeup line.

In Cebu, Kasalang Filipino was held at Ayala Center. Two major fashion shows presented Cebu's designers like Jed Sevilla, Albert Arriba, Protacio, Harley Ruedas and Jude Elardo.

The third leg of the road show happened at Pryce Plaza Hotel, Cagayan de Oro City. Organized by Professional Organizers, Unlimited, Kasalan sa Kagay-an showcased the best wedding suppliers of the city and guest exhibitors from Bohol, Cebu and Manila.

SM City Davao hosted the fourth leg of the road show. Organized by Blue Files Advertising and RSVP Events, the event paid tribute to Men in Weddings, second day, Women and a special show for Brides on its last night.

In Batangas and Tagaytay, Kasalang Filipino was held at Days Hotel. The event highlighted a one-man fashion show by leading local designer Dennis Macarandang.

Kasalan sa Dagupan presents the premier wedding suppliers of the city until today at the hotel's Grand Ballroom.

Kasalan sa San Pablo will take place on Oct. 25-26 at the city's One Stop Shop, located beside the city's Capitol Building and Sampaloc Lake.

Kasalan sa Baguio will be held Nov. 19-22 simultaneously at Porta Vaga and Maharlika Areas. It will be organized by Vertex Innovations, Inc.

Organized by the Rotary Club of Intramuros, the national road show culminates in San Diego Gardens, Intramuros, Manila on Nov. 22-23. It will showcase over 150 wedding suppliers, non-stop programs, fashion shows, raffle draws and gimmicks to couples-to-be.

Call (632) 4161670, 3655510 or e-mail info@kasal.com.

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.

TOLENTINO-AGUBA

Carlo Tolentino, son of **Lourdes Gamban** and the late **Rosendo A. Tolentino**, and **Yna Aguba**, daughter of **Fortunato** and **Nemesia Aguba**, both of Batangas City, will tie the knot at 4 p.m., Oct. 18, at the Casablanca Garden, Batangas City. A dinner reception follows in the same venue.

The bride will wear a 17th century-inspired romantic gown of Spanish organza lace and silk gazer embellished with cut beads and crystals.

AGUILA-OPULENCIA

Ronil Aguila, son of **Romeo** and **Zenaida Aguila** of Lipa City, will marry **Diane Opulencia**, daughter of **Fidel** and **Minerva Opulencia** of Tanauan City, at 3 p.m., Oct. 25, at St. John the Evangelist Parish Church, Tanauan City.

The wedding is to be officiated by Rev. Fr. **Eduardo P. Carandang**, OSJ. Reception will follow at Darasa Fiesta Resort, 146 Pres. Laurel Highway, Darasa, Tanauan, Batangas.

SIAZON-METCHACA

Joel Antonio P. Siazon, son of **Loreto** and **Mansueta Siazon**, will tie the knot with **Lorena B. Metchaca**, daughter of **Juanito** and **Josefa Metchaca** on Oct. 18 at Immaculate Concepcion Parish. Reception will follow at Jade Valley.

The bride will wear a tube gown-empire cut of imported duchess satin with beadwork at the bodice and hemline and in the detachable train. The gown and entourage outfits are creations by **Rollie H. Graza** of Balay Pagdatain. Accessories by **Mikhael**.

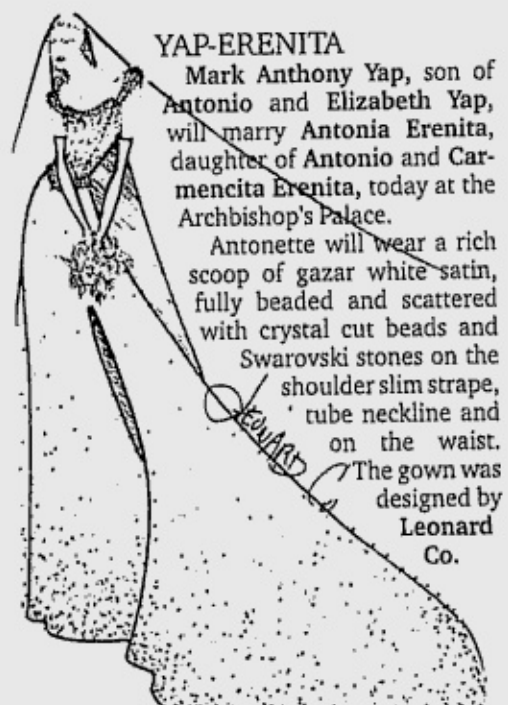
TAN-LUMABI

Julius H. Tan, son of **Vicente** and **Estrella Tan**, tied the knot with **Roserlyn M. Lumabi**, only daughter of lawyer **Rosalino** and **Erlinda Lumabi**, on Oct. 4 at Basilica de San Sebastian. Reception followed at Villa Immaculada, Intramuros, Manila.

The couple and entourage wore creations by **Edd Sy**.

MABALOT-ALITAGTAG

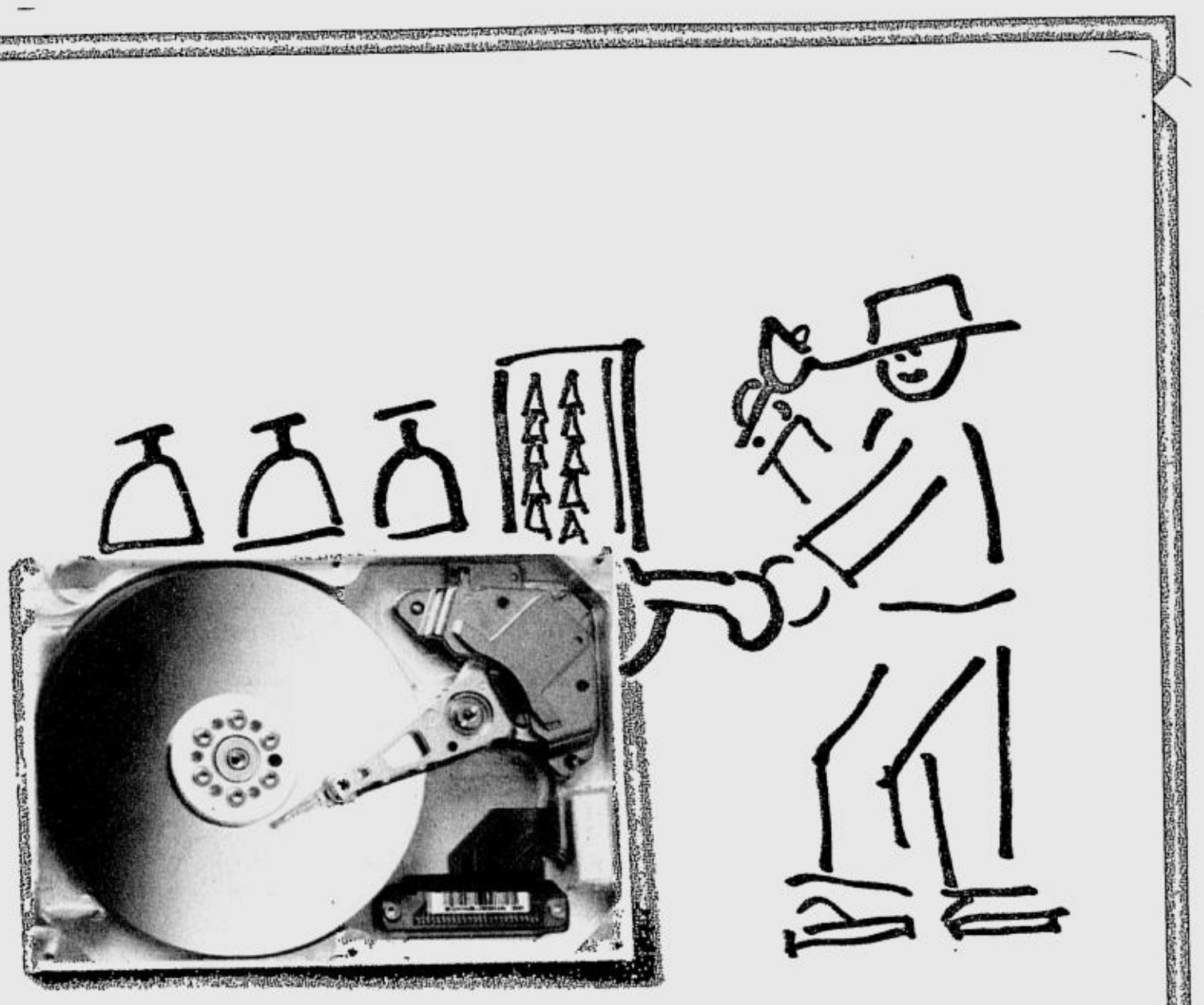
Dr. **Ronnie M. Mabalot**, son of **Alfredo L. Mabalot Sr.** and **Thelma Minda M. Salazar**, will marry **Rachelle C. Alitagtag**, daughter of **Ruben** and **Zayda C. Alitagtag**, on Oct. 25 at San Agustin Church, Intramuros, Manila. Reception will follow at the Grand Boulevard Hotel, Roxas Boulevard, Manila.



YAP-ERENITA

Mark Anthony Yap, son of **Antonio** and **Elizabeth Yap**, will marry **Antonia Erenita**, daughter of **Antonio** and **Carmencita Erenita**, today at the Archbishop's Palace.

Antonette will wear a rich scoop of gazar white satin, fully beaded and scattered with crystal cut beads and Swarovski stones on the shoulder slim strape, tube neckline and on the waist. The gown was designed by **Leonard Co.**



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Got a business idea involving the use of IT? If you are a college student, send us your proposal and you can win cash prizes of up to P150,000, an AIM scholarship and a one-week study tour at the University of Washington, USA. For contest rules and entry forms, ask your Student Affairs Office, visit any HSBC or HSBC Savings branch, or log-on to www.hsbc om.ph.

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The 1st Philippine HSBC Young IT Entrepreneur Awards: How to ENTER

Entry Criteria
Full-time Filipino university students (aged 25 and below) from public and private colleges and universities in Metro Manila are eligible to enter. They must compete in teams of two or three from the same or different schools.

A participant cannot be a member of more than one team. Each team is allowed to submit one proposal only.

Competition Details
The competition will run from November 2003 to February 2004.

For the first round, participating teams must submit an outline of an innovative business idea that uses Information Technology in a way that leads to the creation of a successful business venture or enterprise.

Training sessions will be conducted by AIM and YEO to help participants develop ideas into a full business plan.

There will be two more elimination rounds before the grand finals.

How to Apply
By mail/personal delivery
Get a registration form at your Student Affairs Office or at any HSBC or HSBC Savings branch. Fill up and attach to your entry – a separate A4 containing your value proposition (not more than 25 words) and your business idea (not more than 1000 words). Send to HSBC Public Affairs Department, 12th Floor The Enterprise Center, Tower 1, Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

By e-mail
Download a registration form at www.hsbc.com.ph Fill up and send this along with a separate word file containing your entry to youngit@hsbc.com.ph

All entries must be submitted on or before 12 November 2003. Late entries will not be accepted.

Inquiries
For more details on the contest rules, see posters and flyers. Log-on to www.hsbc.com.ph or email youngit@hsbc.com.ph

Awards/Prizes

	Prizes
	• An HSBC trophy for each team member • PHP160,000 for the team • A 6-month scholarship to AIM's Venture into Entrepreneurship program specifically designed for aspiring entrepreneurs • One-week study tour (with airfare and accommodation) to the University of Washington, Seattle, USA • One year subscription to Entrepreneur Magazine
	• An HSBC trophy for each team member • PHP125,000 for the team • One year subscription to Entrepreneur Magazine
	• An HSBC trophy for each team member • PHP100,000 for the team • One year subscription to Entrepreneur Magazine

This competition is brought to you with the support of our partners: AIM, Young Entrepreneurs' Organization, Entrepreneur, Philippine Airlines

One-stop shop...

From page J1

heavy rains, the reception can move to the air-conditioned banquet hall.

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Patio Victoria can make arrangements for everything, from flowers and decor to the seating arrangement, food, giveaways, cake and even the music so that all the bride has to do on her wedding day is look pretty.

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This role involves the development and generation of new business through strategic-based selling and managing and extending relationships with key accounts.

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Please indicate the industry you are applying for.

ALLIANCE MANAGER

This role involves the planning and execution of country-specific programs to proactively identify, recruit and develop alliance/partnership opportunities inclusive of conducting alliance negotiations, jointly develop business plans with alliances, close the deals and maintain the relationships to ensure that alliances/ partners increase SAS value to its clients.

Five to eight years working experience in a software house or consulting firm with outstanding track record in achieving sales/alliances objectives. Sales management, managing channels and alliances experience is essential.

MARKETING/ADMIN STAFF

Reporting to Sales and Marketing Manager, you will provide strong administrative support by providing proper coordination of correspondences, meetings and client activities to ensure company objectives are met. You will also assist in the implementation of marketing activities through organizing events and telesales/ telemarketing.

This role requires at least 1-3 years working experience preferably in the IT industry. Experience in marketing events management and telesales is essential.

PROJECT MANAGERS

This role involves ensuring the overall success of projects in meeting time, budget and client satisfaction objectives. The key activities include leading proposal development, creating project definitions and plans, and managing projects through to completion.

Six or more years experience in project management, with a background in software development and implementation; and with a proven track record in the delivery of projects in the domain of data warehousing and business intelligence solutions ideally within the banking, telco and government industries. Excellent team leadership and communication skills are needed for this role.

PROJECT CONSULTANTS

This role involves the crafting of technical solutions to meet the business requirements of clients, as well as leading delivery teams on projects.

This role requires at least 4 years' technical experience with extensive applications development, tools and methodology background. A broad understanding in Business Intelligence software and SAS's application development tool set is preferred.

PRESALES TECHNICAL CONSULTANTS

This role involves crafting technical solution architecture to customer prospects, and integrating SAS with partner products including operating platforms/hardware.

5 years or more in-depth technical knowledge of complex IT environments is needed for this role. A broad understanding of various business industries and issues is required. Knowledge of SAS's product and solution offerings in order to handle its integration and design is an advantage.

We are inviting applications from highly motivated and result oriented professionals with strong business acumen, excellent communication and presentation skills.

Interested applicants are invited to apply strictly by email to careers@sgp.sas.com.

Applicants must provide a comprehensive resume detailing key professional achievements and clearly demonstrate how their previous career experience meets the above criteria.

"I may look like the competition...

Inbound Sales Associates
Take inbound sales calls and respond to queries regarding various computer related products from our U.S.-based customers. Seniors, fresh graduates or entry level applicants are encouraged to apply.

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- ✓ Should be proficient in computer applications.
- ✓ Applicants must be willing to work in shifts, including graveyard.

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The average Ambergris CIA is either a college senior, a fresh graduate from a top Philippine university, or a recent graduate with 1-2 years of work experience. Associates will have to resolve situations, provide information, trace or execute requests as needed by our U.S. based customers.

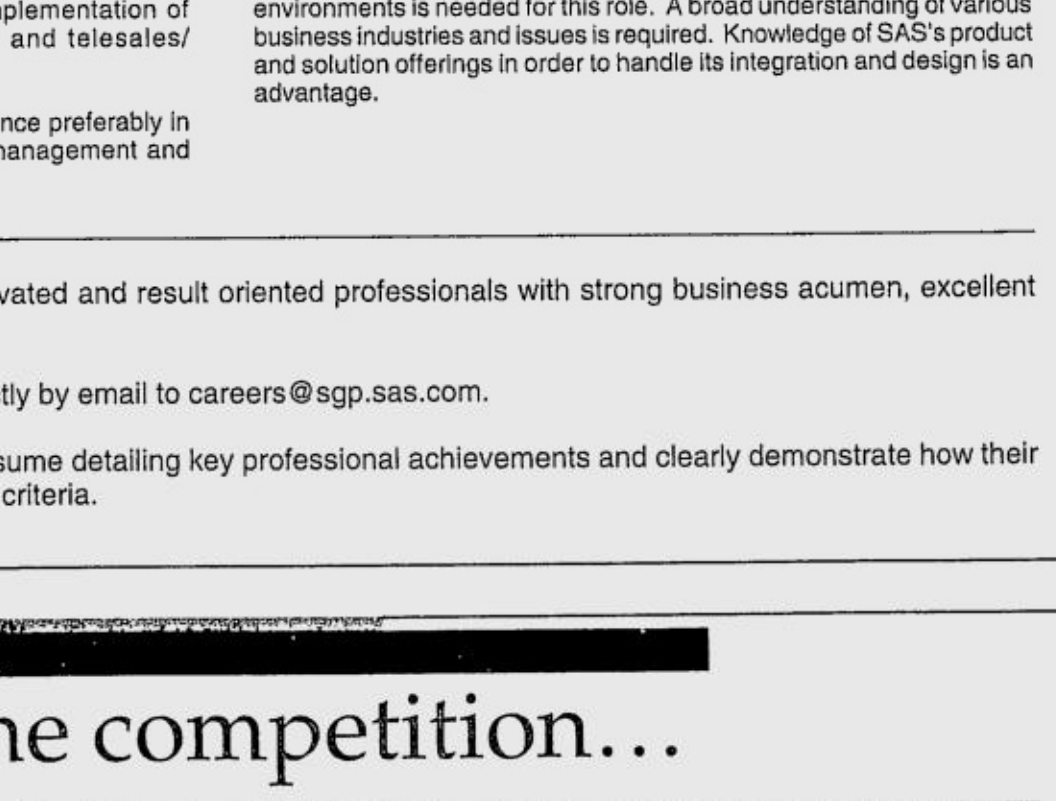
- ✓ Strong verbal and written English communication.
- ✓ Must have very good customer service orientation and can relate well with people from different cultural backgrounds.
- ✓ Must be proficient in computer applications.
- ✓ Should be willing to work in shifts including graveyard.

Team Captains
The first line supervisor of a team of CIAs.

- ✓ Candidate must possess a minimum 1 year supervisory experience from any industry; call center experience is a big plus
- ✓ Must be customer service and/or sales oriented. Willing to work in shifts including graveyard.

Operations Managers and Assistant Operations Managers
Responsible for managing the customer service and call center departments involving activities which contribute to the acquisition, satisfaction and retention of customers.

- ✓ Candidate must have 2 to 3 years experience in managing his/her own small business unit (with functional skills in Sales, Finance, HR and Operations)
- ✓ Exposed to client-relationship management, call center experience a big plus.



But I'm actually loyal to ambergris!"

-Jeremy Angulo, HR Senior Recruitment Associate

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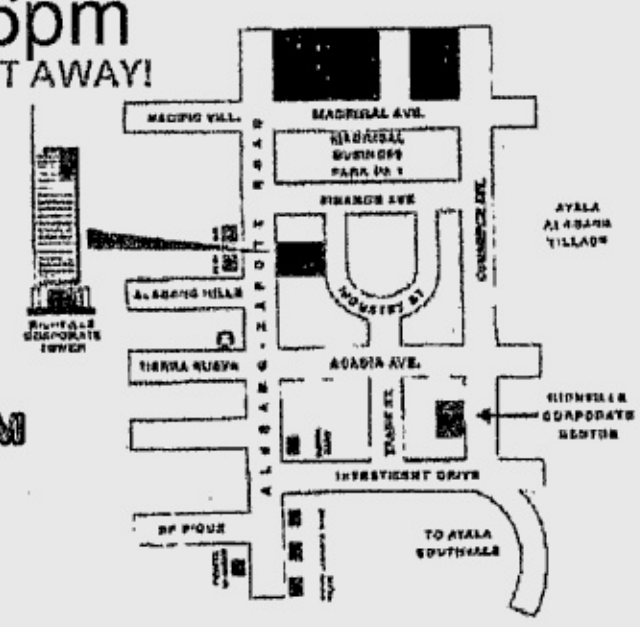

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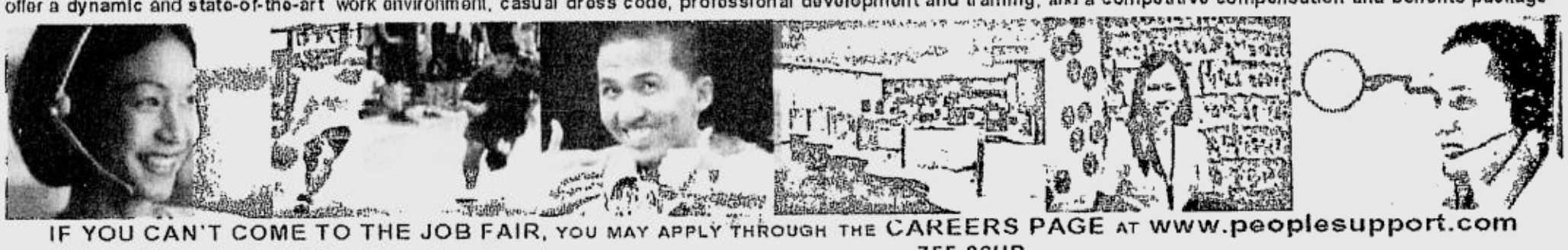

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Between 25-29 years old
With at least one (1) year experience as account officer for housing loans
Previous experience in handling end-buyer financing for developers an advantage
Assertive and results-oriented
With excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills

MARKETING OFFICERS (Binondo, Dagupan City)

Graduate of any 4-year business course
With significant and extensive experience in developing marketing plans
Chinese-speaking (for Binondo Area)
With excellent communication skills
Highly assertive and can work with minimal supervision
Highly proficient in MS Office

COLLECTIONS ASSISTANTS

Graduate of any 4-year business or technical course
Single, not over 25 years old
With knowledge in Accounting
With credit card collection experience
With excellent communication skills
Highly proficient in MS Office

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATES (Metro Manila, Legaspi City, Dumaguete City)

Graduate of any 4-year business course
Not over 25 years old
Experience in tellering/new accounts, preferred but not required
Assertive, with strong customer service orientation
With excellent communication skills
Highly proficient in MS Office
With pleasing personality

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUME WITH 2" X 2" COLORED ID PICTURE TO:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES GROUP
Recruitment Department
7/F, PSBank Center, 777 Paseo de Roxas corner Sedeño St., Makati City
Email: Recruitment@psbank.com.ph (use APPLICATION <position desired> as subject line)

Deadline for submission is Friday, 17 October 2003
Previous applicants need not apply.

LausGroup

A Passion for Cars & Customer Care

We are a 25 year-old Group based in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga with diverse interests in vehicle dealerships, maintenance and services, non-life insurance, retailing financing, mass media, restaurant operations and real estate development.

As part of our continuing expansion and strategy to meet the prevailing business challenges, we are currently seeking dynamic and top-notch professionals for:

SALES MANAGERS

- Highly motivated and must have strong leadership skills
- Target-oriented
- Effective people management skills
- Able to work well with all levels of the organization

SALES SUPERVISORS

- Assertive and results-oriented
- Self-propelled and customer service – oriented
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Able to work well with all levels of the organization

SALES EXECUTIVES

- Team player and able to work in a dynamic environment
- Excellent customer service orientation and positive sales attitude
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Self-driven and able to meet targets

OFFICE EXECUTIVES

- Proficient in the use of computers and various softwares
- Efficient and highly organized
- Proficient in oral and written communication
- Can work well with minimum supervision

ICT SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

- Capable of handling day to day operational requirements of computers and other electronic equipment of the company
- Knowledgeable in networking fundamentals, operating systems, internet and hardware / software troubleshooting and documentation
- Preferably well versed in Microsoft Office and Lotus Notes
- Very good communication skills and adaptable to situations

Qualified applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records, recent 2x2 photo and other pertinent credentials to:

The HR Manager
LausGroup Corporate Center
San Fernando – Olongapo Highway
City of San Fernando (P)
Tel. No. (045) 963-48-51, Fax No. (045) 961-56-18
e-mail address: hrmd@lausgroup.com

Aboitiz Logistics, Inc.

Combining the experience and commitment of our Logistics Consultants with our Passion for better ways, Aboitiz Logistics delivers comprehensive logistics solutions.

Aboitiz Logistics Incorporated is part of the Aboitiz Transport Group, the transportation arm of the Aboitiz Group of Companies. The Aboitiz Group of Companies has a diverse portfolio of business interests in energy production and distribution, financial services, food, infrastructure and transportation by air, land & sea.

Our primary strategy is about people. It is built around the principle that create enthusiastic teams who get things done, teams who execute right on target.

We are inviting aggressive and results-oriented individuals who want to start an exciting career in logistics.

We are looking for ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

(for Metro Manila, Laguna, Subic, Cavite & Cebu)

Basic Requirements/Qualifications:

Education: Graduate of a 4-yr course preferably in Business Administration or Management
Experience: Minimum of 2 years sales and marketing experience preferably from freight-forwarding or logistics company
Personal attributes: Excellent interpersonal relations, good follow-thru, persistent, patient, above average negotiation skills, has strong drive to meet aggressive sales target, with self-confidence and pleasing personality, good coordination skills, excellent customer service skills, above average oral and written communication skills

Competency Requirements:

Develop and generate new business from new accounts
Able to negotiate the appropriate rates
Able to solicit referrals that can lead into a possible sales generating account
Knowledgeable in import/export procedures
Maintain existing customers and address specific concerns
Expand support from existing customer by getting new business/trade
Do market studies and identify/know activities of competition
Develop good contacts among exporters and importers

If you feel you are the one we are looking for, send us your comprehensive curriculum vitaé with 2x2 colored photo to:

The Human Resources Manager
MCPO Box 1766, Makati City
You can also send email at:
ATG_Logistics_HR_Team@aboitizone.com.ph

Chateau 1771 Group of Restaurants

PORTICO 1771 Malate
CHATEAU 1771 Ortigas
SENTO 1771 Makati
Ortigas & Malate

Looking for something new and challenging?
We are now in search of highly motivated individuals for the following positions:

Servers	Receptionists	Cooks
Cashiers	Bartender	Stewards
Kitchen Helpers	Housekeeping Staff	F&B Staff

To qualify, successful candidates must have an HRA/HRM degree or any related four-year course and at least 1 year relevant experience (fresh graduates are welcome to apply too). We want people who have a passion for life, excellence and a love affair with food. We will train you in all aspects of our operations.

We are also looking for **Management Trainees** who are at least 25-30 years of age, minimum of 2 years supervisory experience in a fine dining establishment. Candidates who are active, mature, highly confident, service oriented and interested to work in all aspects of restaurant operations are very much welcome to apply.

Up to this challenge?
Send your resumé, 2x2 photo, Transcript of Records, and Certificates of Employment or clearance from previous employer to:

HR Management Group
24th Floor, IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City

(POSITIONS AVAILABLE UP TO OCTOBER 25, 2003)

SILANGAN

Communications (Phils.), Inc.

Silangan Communications (Phils.), Inc., a company involved in publishing and marketing services, is in need of:

Graphics artist
Qualifications:
- Male/Female, not more than 25 years old
- Bachelor's degree holder
- Has good working knowledge of Corel, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe PageMaker, and Adobe Illustrator
- Has experience in broadsheet as well as the development of lay-out and design
- Able to work harmoniously with others

Marketing officer
Qualifications:
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Marketing, Advertising, Business Administration, or any related course
- Articulate and able to present business proposals to clients
- Has experience in marketing a publication
- Able to work harmoniously with others

News Reporter
Qualifications:
- Male/Female, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of Journalism, Mass Communications, or any related course
- Willing to do field work
- Willing to work for long hours
- Articulate and resourceful
- Proficient in writing in both English and Filipino
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Experience in writing for other publications is a plus
- Sample works (news feature) in both English and Filipino (minimum of 1,000 words)
- Resumé with 2X2 colored picture

TELEMARKETER
- Male or Female, 20-30 years old
- Must have at least one year experience at other call centers
- Must be people-oriented and with pleasing personality

Interested applicants are invited to send their resumé to: resume@silangan-shimbun.com or mail to Silangan Communications (Phils.), Inc. 10th floor 6780 Ayala Avenue, Makati City on or before October 15.

50 Golden Years

Don't be left behind ... ACCELERATE YOUR CAREER ...and BE PART OF THE WINNING TEAM!!!

The Country's "BIGGEST" Rural Bank in LUZON

BANCO SAN JUAN

is searching for talented and ambitious young men and women to fill the following

POSITIONS FOR OUR LUZON BUSINESS OFFICES:

BRANCH MANAGERS (Code: BM)
MARKETING OFFICERS (Code: MO)
ACCOUNT OFFICERS (Code: AO)
MARKETING ASSISTANTS (Code: MA)

Qualifications:
- A self-starter with sharp marketing instincts, and with excellent track record in sales/marketing or customer service for at least two (2) years. Banking experience is an advantage, but not required.
- Preferably with an established pool of clients and/or very determined and confident to establish a strong client base to achieve branch profitability.
- Possesses outstanding leadership, strategic thinking, with high level of flexibility and adaptability.

If you have what it takes to be part of our successful team-players, submit your application letter, resumé, transcript of records and recent 2x2 ID photo to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT (Code: ___)
RURAL BANK OF SAN JUAN, INC.
BSJ Center, Guadalupe Mansions
J.P. Rizal Extension, Makati City
TL : (02) 750-7814, 19, 22 / Fax : (02) 750-7821

And join any of the 30-branch network of Banco San Juan.

METRO MANILA BRANCHES: Makati, San Juan, Valenzuela, Pasig, Marikina, San Mateo, Antipolo; **CAVITE BRANCHES**: Bacoor, Imus; Tagaytay; **NORTH BRANCHES**: Cabanatuan, Baguio, La Union, Olongapo; **PAMPANGA BRANCHES**: San Fernando, Angeles, Dau, Magalang, **TARLAC BRANCHES**: Tarlac City, Bamban, Capas, La Paz, Camiling, Concepcion, Paniqui, Gerona, Moncada, Victoria; **PANGASINAN**: Urdaneta, Dagupan

TEEKAY SHIPPING

6th Floor, Seaboard Center Building
Esteban corner Dela Rosa Streets
Legaspi Village, Makati City
(Behind Makati Medical Center)

Teekay Shipping is a leading provider of international crude oil and petroleum product transportation services through the world's largest fleet of medium-sized oil tankers.

We are presently recruiting for the following positions:

Master
Deck Officer
Engineering Officer
Electrician

to serve on our **CAPE-SIZE BULK SHIPS**

and

Wiper
Ordinary Seaman
Messman

to serve on our **OIL TANKER SHIPS**

Teekay is offering a compensation package based on standard TCCC rates plus performance and return bonuses. It also offers excellent opportunities for career growth and personal development.

If you are interested in applying for a challenging role in a worldwide growth company, please contact Adrien Luntao on:
Telephone: 813-2225
Email: adrien.luntao@teekay.com

For more information on Teekay Shipping, visit our website at:
www.teekay.com

POEA License Number: POEA-027-SB-040103

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!
A leading multinational transport company is in need of a dynamic, assertive and mature professional to occupy the following position in our organization:

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

(MANILA BASED)
- Male or Female
- Holder of an appropriate college degree from a reputable university
- With extensive experience and background in the field of audit, accounting, serving at least 3 years in a managerial or supervisory capacity
- Proven ability to lead a group of accountants
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant

Qualified candidates are requested to **personally submit** their comprehensive and detailed resumé indicating the minimum salary desired, latest 2 x 2 photo, telephone number/s and other relevant credentials to:

MOF Company (Subic), Inc.
6th Floor, CTC Building,
2232 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City,
Metro Manila, Philippines

Attention: THE LEGAL & PERSONNEL AFFAIRS DEPT

LAWYERS

WITH 1 TO 2 YEARS EXPERIENCE IN LITIGATION AND GOOD WRITING SKILLS NEEDED BY LAW FIRM BASED AT THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE CENTRE IN ORTIGAS. GUARANTEED MINIMUM YEARLY INCOME P270,000.

Call Joyce 6346487 to 89 for Appointment.

J-SYS Philippines

J-SYS Philippines Inc., a wholly- owned subsidiary of JGC Information Systems Co., Ltd. based in Yokohama, Japan, which is engaged in the design and installation of computer integrated manufacturing (CIM) systems, project management systems (PMS), engineering process control systems (ES) and development of applications software related with ORACLE DB, announces the recruitment of

10 PROGRAMMERS

to expand its technical base utilizing programming languages – JAVA, VISUAL BASIC, C+ +.

Qualifications:

- Male or female, 25 -30 years old
- Graduates of Business, Engineering and computer courses with experience in programming for at least three (3) years
- Has good analytical and problem-solving skills
- Has good understanding of programming and other IT solutions
- Has good communication and inter-personal skills
- A self-starter and team player
- Must be in perfect health

Successful candidates will be further trained in the Philippines on the latest software and programming technology as well as on the Japanese language (Nihon-go). May be assigned to work on short to long-term global projects.

A competitive compensation package as well as travel opportunities await the successful candidates. Interested parties may come with their curriculum vitae and recent 2" x 2" photo between 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on October 14-16, 2003 for the preliminary examinations to be held at:

J-SYS PHILIPPINES, INC.
JGC Phil. Bldg., Annex, 1606 Trade St. cor. Investment Drive
Madrigal Business Park
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City 1780
Tel. No. (632) 772 3408 to 13

FEDERALAND

A member of the Metrobank Group

OUR VISION:-Creating Communities that provide a well-deserved and improved lifestyle for the Filipino today and future generations. Federal Land continues to live by the principles that inspired its foundation. With new projects soon to be inaugurated, we invite you to be part of the company that continues to break new ground in property development.

We are in need of competitive individuals to join our team as:

Sales Asst. Vice President
- Male or female, at least 30 years old • At least 10 years proven track record in real estate sales preferably in high rise developments • Ambitious & determined to achieve objectives • With an established network of sales personnel • Graduate of any business courses, preferably with HLURB Real Estate license • Excellent package of allowances, commissions, fuel, cellphone & travel benefits.

Director of Sales
- At least 28 years old • With 5 years experience in real estate sales preferably in high rise developments • Posses excellent ability & judgement in recruiting, motivating & leading sales people • Graduate of any business courses, preferably with HLURB Real Estate license • Superior compensation package.

Sales Executives
- Male or female, 21 - 27 years old • Graduate of any four year course from a reputable university • Personable, with excellent communication and presentation skills • Resourceful & industrious, with aggressive personality and a knack for sales • Superior compensation package.

Credit & Collection Officer
- 30 years old and above • With at least six years experience in Credit and Collection and 2 years as Credit and Collection Supervisor • Bachelor's Degree in Accounting or Finance.

Finance Head
- Between 27 - 30 years old • Certified Public Accountant • Minimum of 6 years in the field of finance and more than 2 years experience as Finance Supervisor.

Qualified applicants may send their comprehensive resume with transcript of records to:

HR DEPARTMENT: 7/F METROBANK PLAZA
SEN. GIL PUYAT AVENUE, MAKATI CITY 1200
or email your resume with colored photo to *hr@federalland.com.ph*
Indicate position on the SUBJECT line.

Walk-in applicants will not be entertained.

To the successful candidate, we offer above industry compensation and benefits with a working environment that provides excellence.

Hotel PONTEFINO
BATANGAS CITY

We are a business hotel with de luxe facilities located at the very heart of Batangas City. We are currently looking for personable, self-motivated and creative individuals to fill-up the following positions:

Housekeeping Supervisor **Gardener** **Linen Attendant (Seamstress)**
Restaurant Supervisor **Bell Hop** **Pool Attendant**

Sous Chef
(Batangas Based)
- Must possess management and training skills with solid experience in a la carte service and banquet preparation.
- Knowledgeable in menu planning, menu execution, recipe costing and food presentation.
- Should have at least 2 years Sous Chef work experience.

HR & Training Officer
(Batangas Based)
- Knowledgeable in all facets of HR functions, with emphasis on training conceptualization and implementation
- Can create and sustain empowered teams.
- Graduate of Behavioral Science or Mass Communication Course.
- Preferably female; Not more than 40 years old.

Front Office Agents
- Ability to communicate in Nihongo, a big plus.
- Highly focused; Has the ability to project a positive attitude over the telephone.
- Goes an extra mile to assist the guests with courtesy and efficiency.

Sales Executive (Manila Based)
Banquet Coordinator (Batangas Based)
- Preferably female; with at least two years hotel experience.
- Highly articulate, persuasive, hardworking, willing to learn, resourceful, and a good organizer
- Excellent in oral, written and presentation skills.
- Enjoys field work; Has established clients/contacts.

Interested applicants may send their resumé at:
24/F, IBM Plaza, Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City
or apply personally at:
Hotel Pontefino, Brgy. Gulod Labac, Batangas City

D' Mark Multisales Corp.

BE PART OF A FAST GROWING COMPANY WITH EXCELLENT CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND TRAVEL.

Immediately needs aggressive, talented, dynamic, self-motivated professionals to fill in the following positions:

A. PRODUCT MANAGER
- At least 2-3 years of pharmaceutical experience
- Background in derma cosmetic skincare products is an advantage
- Male/Female, 27-35 years old
- Articulate, creative, leadership skills
- Graduate of any Marketing and/or Science degree

B. MARKETING ASSISTANT
- 25-30 years old, marketing graduate
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Can work with minimum supervision, computer literate
- Willing to travel, fast learner

C. HR MANAGER
- Male or Female
- BS Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate
- With at least 5 years experience in all areas of HR functions and Admin Services

D. ACCOUNTANT
- Male or Female, 25-33 years old
- Certified Public Accountant
- At least 3 years experience in general accounting and auditing

E. PROFESSIONAL MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVE
- Male or Female, 23-30 years old
- Self-motivated, aggressive, hardworking & honest
- At least 2 years experience in sales
- Graduate of Science degree is an advantage
- Willing to travel
- Articulate with pleasing personality

F. FINANCIAL ANALYST
- Female, at least 25 years old
- Certified Public Accountant
- With experience in post accounting

AT D'MARK MULTISALES CORPORATION THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES CAN EXPECT AN ATTRACTIVE REMUNERATION PACKAGE, EXCELLENT TRAINING CAREER OPPORTUNITIES.

Interested candidates are requested to submit their handwritten letter or application, resumé, transcript of records, diploma and passport photo to the address below. Confidentiality is assured. Previous applicants need not apply.

D'Mark Multisales Corporation
21F Regina Garden II Bldg.
703 Reina Regente St., Binondo, Manila

The Little Gym

JUST FOR KIDS INC.
Level 1, Bonifacio Technology Center
31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Fort Bonifacio, Taguig 1634

The Little Gym of Makati	**Bonifacio Tech Center, Fort Bonifacio**
The Little Gym of Mandaluyong	**Level 5, Shangri-La Plaza Mall**
The Little Gym of Alabang	**Level 3, Festival SuperMall**
The Little Gym of East Quezon City	**2nd Floor, Shoppersville, Katipunan Ave.**

The Little Gym® is a franchised children's fitness and development center where motor skill development, recreational gymnastics, sports skills development, and martial arts classes are provided in a safe non-competitive environment. The curriculum-based physical, social and intellectual development programs are designed by child development experts in the United States.

Our enrollment is growing fast, and we need more great teachers for all our four locations. The most qualified candidates will be required to complete successfully a specialized The Little Gym training program. Instructors who complete training and pass assessment would have the privilege of being among the highest paid teachers in the country. All our full-time staff have health insurance benefits.

Awesome RECREATIONAL GYMNASTICS and PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS
For Immediate Hiring

We are looking for exceptional individuals who
- are college degree holders, between 21 and 35 years old;
- speak English fluently and have excellent communication skills;
- have high energy levels and are physically fit;
- have a passion for excellence and a professional work ethic, and are habitually punctual;
- are friendly, great with, and enjoy teaching kids;
- have backgrounds or experience in early childhood education, child development, special education, gymnastics, or marketing.

If you're the one we're looking for, please send your application letter, resumé & passport-sized photo BY MAIL or DROP-OFF at any of our branches before October 31, 2003. In your letter, please indicate the POSITION for which you are applying.

Only the most qualified will be called in for interviews.

An established company engaged in media distribution and advertising is seeking a

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

The Chief Operating Officer:

- Plans, organizes and controls all the day-to-day activities of the Company
- As Chief Operating Officer, he is responsible for the overall administration of the Company
- Responsible for the management of the Company's activities to ensure maximum profits, commensurate with the best interest of shareholders, client/customer and employees
- Responsible for attaining operational and financial goals of the Company

Qualifications:

- Must be a college graduate majoring in management/marketing/finance from a reputable university here or abroad, MBA is an advantage
- Must have proven management skills and hands-on experience in marketing/ sales/advertising
- Must have at least five (5) years experience as senior manager
- Very good managerial skills
- Excellent communications and comprehension skills (oral and written)

Remuneration:

Salary is negotiable

Interested applicants may send their letter of application with comprehensive resumé and recent 2 x 2 picture at –

P.O. Box No. 14253
Ortigas Center
Pasig City

SM

Quiapo • Makati • Cubao
Harrison • North Edsa
Sta. Mesa • Bacoor • Fairview
Manila • Pampanga • Bicutan

need

CASHIERS
CHECKERS

- at least college level
- not more than 25 years old

SALES CLERKS

- female, 18-25 years old
- at least High School graduate
- 5 feet 2 inches in height
- with pleasant disposition

Interested parties may apply personally from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Personnel Department of any SM Department Store (exept for SM Ortigas and Las Piñas branches)

Please bring Bio-data, 2 pcs. 2x2 colored picture with white background, SSS number, TIN (if available). Please come in blouse and skirt.

An established
Public Relations Agency
is in need of dynamic individuals to join its pool of experts

Account Director

- ❑ Bachelor's or graduate degree holder preferably in Communication Arts
- ❑ At least one year as an Account Director or a seasoned senior account manager in a public relations, advertising agency or media organization
- ❑ Analytical, self-starter, hardworking, assertive, creative and very clever
- ❑ Proven track record in media relations, client servicing and event management
- ❑ Articulate with excellent presentation and reporting skills
- ❑ Strong management skills
- ❑ Accustomed to working under pressure and handling multiple projects

Account Managers

- ❑ Bachelor's degree holder
- ❑ At least one year experience as an account manager/PR specialist or a similar position in a public relations, advertising agency or a corporate communications unit
- ❑ Quick thinker, charming and patient
- ❑ Superior verbal and writing skills
- ❑ Excellent presentation and reporting skills

Writers

- ❑ Bachelor's degree holder
- ❑ Superior verbal and writing skills
- ❑ At least one year experience as a writer or editor in a media organization, publishing company, corporate communications unit, PR or advertising agency
- ❑ Proficient in news and feature writing
- ❑ Creative, media savvy, flexible and well-informed

Please mail your resumé with a cover letter and at least three references with telephone numbers to:

PO Box 3802, Makati CPO
1278 Makati City.

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

A leading multinational transport company is in need of a dynamic, assertive and mature professional to occupy the following position in our organization:

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

(MANILA BASED)

- Male or Female, not more than 30 years old, with pleasing personality
- Holder of an appropriate college degree from a reputable school
- Must have relevant sales work experience in the same capacity preferably in air, land and sea transport
- Willing to travel anywhere in the Philippines
- Computer literate, has good communications skills, willing to listen and learn, mature and organized, and can work extended hours

Qualified candidates are requested to **personally submit** their comprehensive and detailed resumé indicating the minimum salary desired, latest 2 x 2 photo, telephone number/s and other relevant credentials to:

MOF Company (Subic) Inc.
6th floor, CTC Building,
2232 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City,
Metro Manila, Philippines

Attention: THE LEGAL & PERSONNEL AFFAIRS DEPT.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

5 (five) Exp'd Sales People on Field Work

Knowledge in: Mechanical, Plumbing, Fire Protection, Pipelines products.

- Male / Female, sincere applicants
- NEWLY GRADUATE – B.S. Mechanical Eng'g./BSBA Marketing can also apply
- Good personality, strong character
- Very optimistic to entertain clients, meet sales quota
- Hardworking, ON-TIME, committed & responsible
- Can work long hours w/ less supervision

Qualified Applicants will be having Salary, Allowance & Attractive Commission

Pls. apply personally
w/ complete resumé, bio-data w/ 2x2 picture
at 814 Reina Regente St., Binondo,
Manila. Daily (1 pm-5 pm)
Look for Ms. Jenny

FEP PRINTING CORPORATION
(Official printer of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Libre, Asian Wall Street Journal, Cebu Daily News, Bandera, Tumbok)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

TREASURY MANAGER
- CPA
- At least 2 years experience in similar capacity
- Graduate from reputable university

IT MANAGER
- Male or Female, not more than 35 years old
- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science/Information Technologies or equivalent
- Minimum 3 years work experience as systems administrator
- Hands-on experience in internet/networking environments, client-server applications
- Knowledgeable in the following softwares/designs:
  - o Windows NT 2000 Administration
  - o Microsoft SQL Server Administration
  - o Linux Administration
  - o Visual Basic Programming
  - o Web Design development

PURCHASING CLERK
- Graduate of Industrial Engineering or Marketing
- At least 1 year experience in purchasing
- Knowledgeable in warehouse procedures

ACCOUNTING ANALYST
- Accounting graduate
- With previous general accounting experience

PRODUCTION PERSONNEL
- Mechanical Engineering graduate
- Licensed Engineers from reputable university

GRAPHIC PRODUCTION ARTIST
- College graduate from reputable school
- MAC/PC literate
- Previous experience required

GENERAL SERVICES ANALYST
- Electrical/Mechanical/Civil Engineering or BS Architecture graduate
- Graduate from reputable university
- Can plan, organize, direct and control operations and support services involving central records and postal, printing and microfilming of documents, work processing, telecommunications and building maintenance operations

TECHNICAL SUPPORT ANALYST
- Male/BS Chemical Engineering graduate
- Licensed graduates from reputable school
- Work experience in a manufacturing set up is preferred
- Willing to travel from time to time to Davao and Cebu plants
- Computer proficient in office applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel)
- Should be able to relate and interact with other employees in the line

TELEPHONE OPERATOR
- College graduates from reputable school
- With good communication skills
- Pleasing personality

Applicants for all position must be willing to be assigned in Mamplasan, Laguna (shuttle service available). Fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

Qualified applicants are requested to submit a comprehensive resumé, recent 2x2 picture and a photocopy of Transcript of Records.

FEP Printing Corporation
Louie R. Prieto Press Building
Mascardo Street near corner Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Or Email: acasan@fep.ph

A LEADING COMPANY IN INVESTMENT PROMOTION URGENTLY SEEKS:

ORACLE PROGRAMMER – With at least 6 mos. related experience; Proficient in Oracle 8i, knowledge in 9i is an advantage

WEB DEVELOPER – With at least 6 mos. related experience, Proficient in PHP, Flash with Action Script, HTML and Dreamweaver, My SQL

ELECTRICAL ENGINEER – Licensed, With at least 1 yr related experience; Knowledgeable in Industrial Safety or Environmental Management

Applicants should be below 35 years old and with good oral and written communication skills. Competitive compensation package awaits successful applicants. Send resumés to:

HRDD P.O. Box 3403 Makati Central Post Office 1274 Makati City or
E-mail to dbetterdeal9375@yahoo.com; admin@peza.gov.ph

FOOD INGREDIENT COMPANY NEEDS

FOOD TECHNOLOGIST & ACCOUNTING STAFF

Qualifications:
-female (single)
-21-25 years old
FOOD TECHNOLOGIST:
-B.S. Food Technology graduate
-preferably one or two years working experience in Food Institution or Food Manufacturing.
ACCOUNTING STAFF:
-B.S. Accountancy
-new graduates may apply.

Send to: U.P. P.O. Box 15,
DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

-comprehensive resumé
-records of grades
-2x2 or 1½ x 1½ ID picture

CPILS-CEBU

NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS

FULL-TIME ESL INSTRUCTORS

- Between 28-40 years old
- Preferably an Australian, American, Canadian and British citizen
- Preferably a holder of Philippine resident visa
- Preferably with bachelor's degree or CELTA/TEFL/TESL certificate
- Must be energetic, outgoing and creative
- Must possess good interpersonal skills

The Personnel Director, CPILS
Benedicto Building (formerly Harbor View Hotel)
M.J. Cuenco Ave., Cebu City Tel. # (032) 416-7637
Or e-mail: gracefb@mailcity.com

IMMEDIATE HIRING

PROMODISER

(DEPARTMENT STORE)

Qualifications:
- Single
- Age 18 to 24 years old
- 5'6" male/5'3" female in height and above
- At least 2nd year college/college graduate
- Fair complexion
- With pleasing personality
- With or without experience

Contact: **Mr. Rommel**
Marilag Bus. & Ind'l.Svcs.
929 1872, 929 7270, 413-8336, 0927-3409700
E-mail: rvg_xtreme@yahoo.com

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES FOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

23-30 y/o, M/F with good communication skills
Look for Ms. Muran

727-77-91; 727-6841; 7180253
2/F Conservatory Bldg.
605 Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

SALES PERSONNEL
OFFICE ASSISTANT
Female, Secretarial or Commerce Computer Literate
MS Word & Excel
Delivery Driver
Male not more than 30 y/o coll level, w/ 1 yr exp
Prof Driver's license
Apply in person or by mail at #59 D San Rafael St.,
Kapitolyo Subd., Pasig City
Tel No 638-3779

We are inviting aggressive and mature individuals to fill up vacant positions as we continue our commitment in giving the best quality service to our clients.

MECHANICAL ENGINEER
- B.S. Mechanical Engineering graduate
- With experience in CADD operations
- With at least 2 years work experience
- Proficient in (both oral and written) English
- With pleasing personality

SECRETARY
- Graduate of any 4-year Business/Management course
- Computer literate
- Preferably with at least 1 year working experience
- With pleasing personality

PROGRAMMER
- Male, 26-28 years old
- Proficient in Visual Foxpro and Vbasic
- Knowledge of ASP and IIS 5.0
- Knowledge of TCP/IP would be an advantage
- Have at least 2 years of work experience
- With background in NTFS and IPSec
- Knowledge in Accounting would be an advantage

NETWORK ADMINISTRATORs (CEBU)**
- Male, 26 to 28 years old
- Working knowledge of TCP/IP, windows 2000 server, Win2Kpro, Win XP and Novell 6.0
- With at least 2 years working experience
- Proficient in NTFS, Active Directory, DNS and DHCP Configuration
- With in-depth knowledge of Switch Hubs, Routers, Fault-tolerant Disks, DFS and Subnetting
- Preferably a resident of Mandaue, Cebu City

COOK
- 22-30 years old, male or female
- Preferably with at least 2 years working experience as cook from restaurant and coffee shoppe
- Expertise in pastries and sandwiches is an advantage
- Must be a team player

WAITER/WAITRESS
- 21-28 years old
- Preferably with at least 1-2 years working experience from restaurant and coffee shoppe
- Excellent communication skills both in English and Tagalog
- Pleasing personality and a team player

INTERESTED APPLICANTS may send or submit personally their updated resumé with recent ID picture, NBI or police clearance, photocopy of transcript of records, and certificate of previous employment to:

DN STEEL MARKETING, INC.
533 Commonwealth Ave., Quezon City
E-mail us at: dn.fnh@pacific.net.ph
(Previous applicant need not apply)

** For Cebu Applicants please apply at:
DN STEEL MARKETING, INC.-CEBU
MC Briones St., National H'way
Mandaue, Cebu City

Want to make a difference by providing world class care to customers?
If you thrive in a fast paced environment, get excited about technology and people;

EPIXTAR
(epik+star) Surpassing the ordinary in scope: an entity whose leadership role is superior.

We're looking for people who are passionate about their work! Epixtar is an intense, fast-paced marketing services company where we care about our customers, the quality of our work, and each other.

Due to public demand the EPIXTAR Job Fair has been extended October 13th - 17th, 2003 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the

8th floor Tower 2 Insular Life Corporate Center Commerce corner Corporate Ave., Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa

Please bring an updated copy of your resume or mail to the above address. You may also apply on-line: www.epixtar.com

We hope to see you there!!!

Epixtar Corp. (epik-star) is a provider of marketing services — aggregating international contact center capacity to deliver comprehensive, turnkey solutions. Epixtar delivers value-driven, creative solutions for telesales initiatives. Leading companies use **Epixtar's** marketing expertise and contact center capacity to acquire, support, and enhance the customer experience, reduce costs and generate top-line revenue. Based in Miami, Florida, Epixtar conducts operations throughout the Caribbean Basin, India and the Philippines.

Talented individuals wanted for the following positions at our Alabang site:

Sales Executives = The successful candidates will be assigned to establish an excellent working relationship with our accounts to ensure that all their needs and queries are promptly taken care of. This person must be outgoing and have some idea of US culture

Team Leaders = Will be responsible for leading a team of Sales Executives and improving team performance through analysis, coaching and mentoring of team members.

Project Managers = Responsible for the compliance, quality and performance of Epixtar clients through management of the Sales Executives (Phone Sales Agents), individual contribution, partnering with the operations manager and indirect management of cross-functional team.

Floor Managers = The candidate will be tasked to manage and coordinate the floor Operations of the call center to ensure that the targets are met and processes are being implemented.

Induction Trainers = Responsible for delivering and potential development of all induction and orientation training through the direct management of the trainers as well as individual contribution

Product Trainers = Responsible for the development and delivering of product specific training for the Sales Executives and Operations

Comp/Ben Manager = Responsible for accurately processing and administering payroll and benefits.

Account Executive = Responsible for the compliance, quality and performance of Epixtar clients through management of the Account Executives, individual contribution, partnering with the operations managers and indirect management of all areas impacting client performance

Performance Director The senior client advocate accountable to insuring compliance, quality and driving performance on all metrics on behalf of the client. Impact to client results and experience is to be achieved through the direct management of Application Training, Quality Assurance, and Account Executive Managers, collaboration with other center directors and as a member of the contact center's Senior Leadership Team. Reporting to the VP of Call Center Operations, functional interaction and direction will also come from the corporate business development group

Quality Manager = Responsible for call monitoring, feedback and coaching of agents through the direct management of the Quality Assurance Processes and Quality Assurance Agents. Additional duties will include development of quality processes and hosting client monitoring sessions

General Accounting Supervisor = Candidate should be knowledgeable in payroll, financial accounting procedures, government-related transactions and dealings with labor and tax regulations.

Enrichment Manager = Responsible for driving a fun environment through designing and implementing short- and long-term employee morale programs, contests and parties

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Great Opportunity for really good programmers!
Be part of one of the most exciting companies today!
Focused on new technologies with deployments in Southeast Asia, Middle East and Australia.

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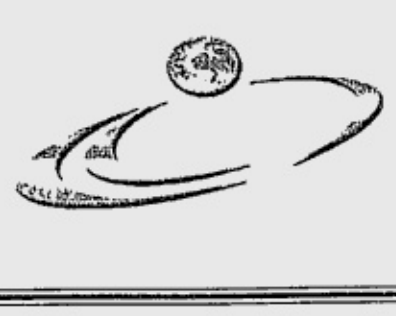
Web Developers



Send resumés to fidescruz@idealogy.ph
or contact Fides Cruz at 0920-9238161

De La Salle University
DASMARIÑAS

needs teachers in

Chemistry • Physics • Computer Science and/or related field • Marketing • Behavioral Sciences • Psychology • Sociology

Qualifications

Master's degree holder or with at least 15 units • With at least two years teaching experience • For Marketing, industry experience in the field of marketing and advertising is a must.

Please apply in person and bring the necessary documents (i.e. resume, diploma, transcript of records) to the Faculty Resource Development Office (Gregoria Montoya Hall) of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas. Marketing teacher applicants are requested to submit their requirements to The Department Chair Marketing Department DPH 201, DPH Bldg. DLSU-Dasmariñas.

De La Salle University-Dasmariñas
Cavite 4115 Philippines
For inquiries, call: (046) 416-0554-56 • 4164531 • (02) 844 7832 local 3024 • www.dasma.dlsu.edu.ph
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IMMEDIATE HIRING
IN MAKATI OFFICE

Our company is looking for qualified men and women to occupy key positions in the company.

- If you are willing to undergo training at company's expense
- With excellent communication skills
- Willing to start immediately

APPLY AT:

PHIL. AXA LIFE CENTER
(Formerly PSBank Tower)
Suite 2104, 21st Floor, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,
(former Buendia) cor. Tindalo St., Makati City
(beside Makati Central Post Office)

You will be qualified for:
- Above average training income
- Incentives and other benefits
- Continuous management training program
- A chance to join annual foreign trips with the top management group

SEE US FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTERVIEW!!

Come in proper business attire with 2 pcs (2x2) ID pictures and your comprehensive resumé on Oct. 13 (Monday) to Oct. 15 (Wednesday) only from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Bring extra ID and the clipping of this Ad. Present another ID to gain entrance in the building.

OLYMPIC BADMINTON CLUB
The largest and most comprehensive badminton facility in South East Asia is currently inviting applicants for the following positions:

RECEPTIONIST
- Female at least 22-30 years old
- Experience with sales and client relations
- Athletic, pleasing personality and appearance
- Computer literate
- Excellent communication skills in English and Tagalog

BOOKKEEPER/ACCOUNTANT
- Female with at least 2-3 years of work experience in all phases of accounting
- Mature, organized, responsible and can work under pressure
- Prompt, efficient, honest and of good moral character
- Reports oriented, keen to details of all transactions
- Proficient in MS Office especially Excel

COURT MANAGER
- Male or Female, 22-35 years old with previous managerial experience
- Graduate of BA or BS degree
- Team player
- Excellent client relation, interpersonal skills and leadership skills

LOCKER ROOM ATTENDANT
- Male & Female, with previous experience in the service industry
- Pleasing personality and appearance
- Courteous, efficient and honest

MAINTENANCE
- Male, 20-35 years old
- Hardworking and willing to work overtime

Olympic Badminton Club
Warehouse 5, 108 E. Rodriguez Ave.,
Libis, Quezon City
Tel. No. 752-7234/7234 or (0917) 555-5555
931-9376 look for Ms. Moldy
951-8114 look for Ms. Wolvie/Lids
E-mail: olbc@skyinet.net

TAIYO YUDEN (PHILIPPINES), INC.

Happiness to Employees
Contribution to Society
Dividends to Stockholders

We are a Japanese manufacturing firm engaged in electronic parts and semi-conductor products located in the Phase I of the Mactan Export Processing Zone of Cebu.

We have subsidiaries all over the world spread across Asia, Europe and United States of America.

We hold prestige of our three marks of excellence in our certification to **ISO 14001, Quality System 9000** and **Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series 18001**.

We are presently open for the following position awaiting for talented and highly-motivated individuals with the corresponding eligibility requirements:

JAPANESE INTERPRETER
Code : JI

- College Graduate
- Holds a Japanese Proficiency Diploma
- Experienced in dealing with Japanese executives
- Familiar with the manufacturing set-up
- Willing to be relocated to Cebu

Kindly email your resumé to recruitment@pty.yuden.co.jp or send your application letter with resumé and photo to:

Human Capital Department Manager
Human Capital Division
TAIYO YUDEN (PHILIPPINES) INC.
Mactan Economic Zone 1
Lapu-Lapu City

ATTENTION: ALL REGISTERED NURSES

4M SJ HALL & ASSOCIATES MANPOWER, INC. is accepting applicants to fill in staffing requirements of US-based medical facilities for immediate employment.
4M SJ HALL & ASSOCIATES MANPOWER, INC. is looking for:

A. U.S. Registered Nurses
B. CGFNS Passers
C. New Nursing Graduates wishing to apply for NCLEX-RN exam. and/or CGFNS exam.
D. Nurses waiting for NCLEX-RN and/or CGFNS exam results

Free assistance / worry-free processing / fast results / guaranteed jobs
All expenses paid for Visa Screening • IELTS • NCLEX • Packet 3 & 4 fees

FREE!!! Airline ticket, Family relocation, Housing, Medical benefits Holidays and many more...

4M SJ HALL & ASSOCIATES MANPOWER, INC. will assist all applicants up to visa application, employment, and family relocation

Requirements for immediate processing with the Bureau of Citizenship & Immigration Service (BCIS), USA:

- Resumé
- PRC license
- Board Certificate
- Transcript of Records
- BSN Diploma
- CGFNS Passing Score or Certificate Or US-RN License
- 2 pcs. - Passport size colored photos

BONUS: *$15,000.00 bonus to Qualified Applicants*

JOB INTERVIEW SCHEDULE:
(For Details, Pls. Call Our Manila Office)

MANILA
1872 Remedios St. cor. Taft Avenue
Rm.407 Doña Felisa Syjuco Bldg.
Malate, Manila
Tel. No. 528-4633
DATE: Monday to Friday

LA UNION
SEA & SKY HOTEL
5th Floor, Pagdaraoan
San Fernando City, La Union
Tel. No. (072) 700-5594
DATE: October 24 & 25, 9AM-5PM

TARLAC
LA MAJARICA HOTEL
Function Room
Mc Arthur Highway cor. Ligtasan
Tarlac City, Tarlac
DATE: October 19, 2003, 1-5PM

BAGUIO CITY
311-B Lopez Bldg. c/o Royal Pacific
Session Road, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 304-1963 / (074) 446-5573
DATE: October 26 & 27, 10AM-4PM

E-mail Address: nursehunt2003@yahoo.com

•••FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY•••NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED•••

An exclusive franchise of a high-end imported brand is in urgent need of a top caliber:

Personnel and Administrative Manager

- Female, between 30-45 years old
- Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science or Human Resource Management
- With at least five (5) years experience in all facets of Human Resource Management in a managerial capacity
- Must have excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have strong leadership qualities, organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must possess a pleasing and dynamic personality and can deal well with all levels in the organization
- Must be people-oriented, analytical, and highly motivated

Qualified applicants are requested to send immediately their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo to:

MN-Box 2050
c/o Classified Ads
Philippine Daily Inquirer
P. Tamo cor. Yague and Mascardo Sts.
Makati City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

DESK EDITORS

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

ASSISTANT EDITORIAL SYSTEMS HEAD

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Computer Engineer with background or experience in newspaper production process particularly digital prepress operations
- 5 years experience in similar job or job leading to it
- 3 years managerial experience
- Can design, develop and install digital prepress systems
- Knowledge in scanning, color management, camera and printing process, TERA Editorial System
- Knowledge of Editorial Systems operations in a newspaper industry
- Knowledge of digital prepress and printing process

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Responsible for overseeing the day to day operation of the digital prepress/production section
- Evaluates, recommends and implements an efficient and effective digital prepress workflow
- Monitors and improves the preparation of editorial materials in accordance with production deadlines and quality specifications

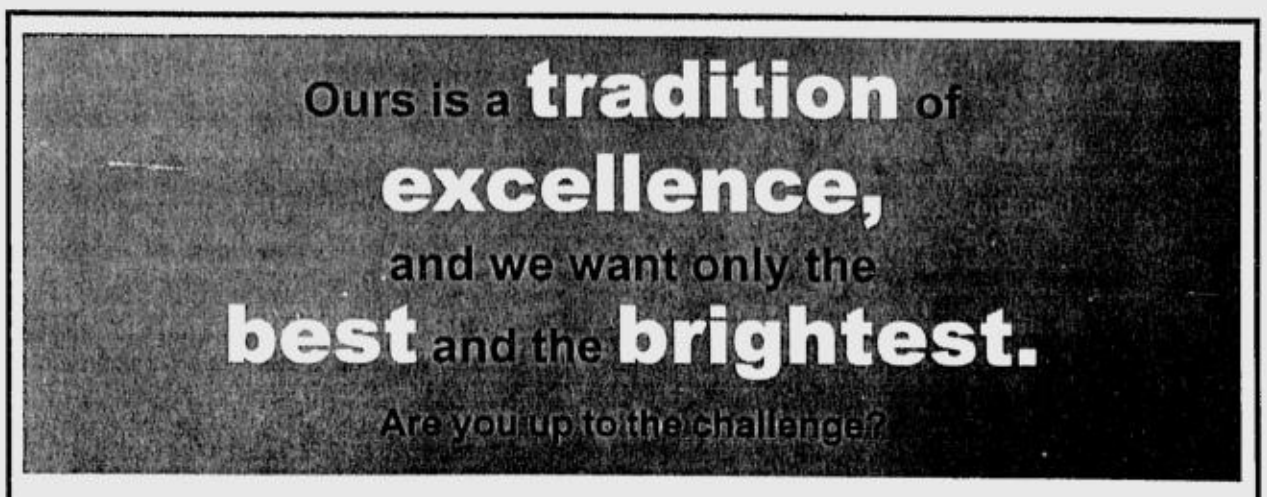
CORPORATE RELATIONS ASSISTANT

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Graduate of Mass Communication or any related course
- 1 year experience on this job or jobs leading to it
- Knowledge in Basic Computer / Office software operation

RESPONSIBILITIES:
- Assists in representation, evaluation, coordination and monitoring of company sponsored events (community, corporate, school interviews and tours)
- Assists in PR related campaigns

Mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph



We are now hiring for the following branches:

METRO MANILA:
ALABANG, BINONDO, QUEZON CITY, MANDALUYONG, MAKATI, VALENZUELA

VISAYAS-MINDANAO
BUTUAN, CAGAYAN DE ORO, CATBALOGAN, CEBU, DAVAO, DIPOLOG, ILOILO

LUZON PROVINCIAL
DAGUPAN, SANTIAGO-ISABELA, SORSOGON

BRANCH HEAD
- Above average business orientation skills
- With extensive background in marketing, credit & lending
- At least five (5) years experience as a Branch Manager gained from a universal/commercial bank
- Good leadership skills

BRANCH CASHIER
- Business course graduate
- With extensive training & experience in cash operations
- Possesses good marketing/selling skills
- With strong customer service skills

BRANCH OPERATIONS HEAD
- With at least 3 years Branch Operations or Audit experience
- Certified Public Accountant
- Assertive, meticulous & control-oriented
- With customer service skills

MARKETING SERVICES OFFICER
Has successful experience in:
- Ad campaign and below-the-line marketing
- Merchandising and promotions
- Corporate publications/newsletter
- Events management
- Customer service

BRANCH STAFF TEAM :
Customer Relations Assistants
Tellers
Branch Accounting Assistants
Loans & Foreign Assistants

- Business course graduates
- Good customer service skills
- High potential for advancement
- Good communication skills
- Above average scholastic records

Interested applicants may send their resume, transcript of records and recent 2" x 2" photo to: >

> HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION
12th floor, CBC Building
8745 Paseo de Roxas cor. Villar Street, Makati City
or via E-mail:recruitment@chinabank.ph

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Your success is our business

Join us as we head off to new territory,
as JOBZ: Employment Expo takes over the
Ortigas Business District for the first time.
Set to take place on
October 28-30, 2003 at the SM Megatrade Hall 1,
SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.
We promise to give you the grandest and
most extensive Inquirer job fair thus far.

Just like any Inquirer job fair, we aspire to give your company only the best. PREMIUM EXPOSURE, as we feature your company profile and services on site, online and on print. BIG BREAK, as we offer you fresh new and eager graduates to join the challenging corporate world. And most of all, we assure you GOOD VALUE for your hard-earned money because with us you get more for paying less!

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Yes, I'm interested in joining the Inquirer Job Market's JOBZ Employment Expo 2003 in SM Megatrade Hall.

Please call me Please send me more information

Company Name: Phone Number/s:
Address: Fax Number:
Contact person:

Kindly fill-up this form and fax it to any Inquirer branch near you.

Makati (Main)- 897-8808 loc. 514, 516 / 897-8425 (Direct) 897-8425 Makati Branch- 811-4361 / 811-4370 / 811-4165 811-4012 / 892-5578 Quezon City Branch - 912-9008 to 10 / 912-9011
Mandaluyong Branch- 635-0219 / 637-2008 / 635-0220 Manila Branch- 527-3342 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 / 528-0213
Provincial Branch- 897-8808 loc. 243 / 899-4427 (direct) 897-8425

ACTEON Philippines

A French Multinational Company, leader in Philippine Dental Market is in need of PERSONABLE, HARDWORKING, DYNAMIC, AGRESSIVE and RESULT ORIENTED people to fill in the following positions:

TECHNICAL SALES SPECIALISTS

Willing to be assigned in the following areas:

Central Luzon **Northern Luzon**
Metro Manila **South Luzon**

QUALIFICATIONS:
Male, 23 to 28 years old • Graduate of any Engineering course (not necessarily licensed) • With at least 3 years sales experience • Willing to do fieldwork • Excellent written and oral communication skills • Can work under pressure • Sales Representatives from other dental companies are welcome to apply.

COMPANY PHARMACIST

QUALIFICATIONS:
Female, 24 to 28 years old • Licensed Pharmacist • With at least 2 years experience in BFAD product registration and renewal • Organized • Can work under pressure and minimum supervision • Willing to do fieldwork • Excellent written and oral communication skills.

Interested applicants can apply in person with their comprehensive resumé, 1 passport size photo and transcript of records at 3/F King's Court II Bldg., Pasong Tamo, Makati City on October 6 to 8, 2003 from 2:00 to 5:00 PM.

We invite you to join our highly creative and innovative Marketing Team.

CHATEAU 1771
GROUP OF RESTAURANTS

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGERS

- *Highly articulate, resourceful, creative*
- *Sensitive to the ever changing needs of guests*
- *3-5 years work experience in the service industry*

MARKETING OFFICER

- *Must have a passion for advertising, promotions, events coordination, graphic design, and public relations*
- *Enthusiastic, decisive, resourceful and creative*
- *At least 2 years work experience in the Marketing field*

MARKETING ASSISTANT

- *Must have a keen interest in advertising and promotions*
- *Marketing background preferred*
- *Willing to learn, highly organized, energetic and dedicated*
- *A team player, and a vital support to restaurant operations*

Interested applicants may submit their resumés to:
HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
24/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City
Libis, Quezon City

Need to earn extra income? Are you outgoing and adventurous?
Conduct interviews for worthwhile projects!

Looking for Interviewers
(per project basis)

Qualifications:

- Male or Female, 20-30 years old
- College Level or College Graduate
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Honest and Dependable
- Pleasing, outgoing personality
- Willing to work on field
- No work experience required

Apply in person with resumé and current photo at:

Suite 603 Richmonde Plaza
21 San Miguel Avenue corner Lourdes St.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Look for Khor

URGENT JOB OPENINGS!

WE NEED TO FILL UP THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS ASAP!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS (10)
M/F; 20-25 years old; pref. Graduates of a 4-year Business course; with good communication skills; proficient in MS Office; with at least 6 mos. experience

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS (15)
M/F 20-25 years old, Accounting graduate,computer literate; preferably with at least 6 months related experience but fresh graduates are welcome.

OFFICE ASSISTANTS (10)
M/F, 20-25 years old, pref. graduates of a 4-year Business course; with good communication skills; computer literate; well-organized

TELEMARKETERS (20) (Note: with basic pay & incentives)
M/F,20-25 years old,graduates of any 4-year college course, with above average communication skills; computer literate; people oriented

MARKETING ASSISTANTS (20)
M/F,20-25 years old,graduates of any 4-year college course, with above average communication skills; computer literate; with pleasing personality; willing to go out on field work; posses good marketing skills.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE ASKED TO SUBMIT THEIR RESUME AND 2X2 PHOTO IN ANY OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS :

SEE US at: ATM-PAI
Unit 1610 16th Flr. Cityland 10 Tower 1, 6815 Ayala Ave.,Makati City (beside RCBC Plaza)

by FAX: 894-5897
for immediate review of papers;
Call for appointment at 812-2654 or 817-3315 (Athena, Milos, Eric or Fonzi)

by EMAIL:
atmpai@operamail.com
Attention your letter to : Ms. Leah P. Andres
Please avoid large file attachments!

Deadline for application : October 30, 2003

WANTED IMMEDIATELY
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/ASSISTANT

Female, single, at least 25 years old with One (1) year work experience, preferably a business course graduate.

Please mail resumé with transcript of records to:

GRACE S. REYES DESIGNS, INC.
430 Mayon St., Sta. Mesa Heights, Quezon City
or E-mail at grdi@info.com.ph

DRAFTS PERSON/DESIGNER

Design company in USA looking for talented, aggressive and creative draftsperson/designer(s). Furniture & lighting industry experience ideal but not a requirement. Send us your resumé at Soprints@optonline.net
subject: ATTN: Carmie

MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

- Female
- B.S. Hotel and Restaurant Management or B.S. Business Administration Graduate
- With good communication and leadership skills
- With strong character and pleasing personality

Please call Cecille at Treehouse Restaurant at 921-7299

WE URGENTLY NEED
INDUSTRIAL SALES ENGINEERS

- Male-Female, not more than 35 yrs. old
- Graduate of ECE / EE / Instrumentation Eng'g (preferably licensed)
- Background in Instrumentation preferred
- Good oral & written communication skills
- Computer Literate (MS word, excel, powerpoint)
- Can handle work pressure w/ min. supervision
- Driving skills necessary

Qualified applicants are requested to send immediately their comprehensive resumé, transcript of records and a recent 2x2 photo to:

GRAM INDUSTRIAL, INC.
Rm. 219 Tia Maria Sarao Bldg.
C.V. Starr Ave., Pamplona
Las Piñas City
Tels. # 873-1556 / 871-3989

We are in need of the following individual for the following positions

PROJECT SUPERVISOR/PRODUCTION DESIGNER
- 25-30 years old
- Architecture or Advertising Graduate
- With experience in design & construction
- Knowledgeable in Adobe Photoshop, Corel & Auto CADD
- Can supervise 20-50 personnel
- Willing to work beyond regular working hours

BOOKKEEPER
- 22-30 years old
- Preferably B.S. Accountancy Graduate
- At least one (1) year experience in accounting or bookkeeping job
- Computer literate

SECRETARY
- Communication Arts Graduate
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

COMPUTER GRAPHICS ARTISTS
- Must be knowledgeable in the following programs: Adobe Photoshop (Photoshop, Illustrator, After Effects) Corel and others
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

Please send your resumé with picture to the following address

VISUAL ILLUSION QUEST CORPORATION
Moncmar Bldg., Jose Cruz Street
Brgy. Ugong, Pasig City
Telephone No. 671-8620

We are inviting applicants with excellent interpersonal and communication skills to fill the following positions:

ADMIN AND HR MANAGER
HR ASSISTANT
BOOKKEEPER
SECRETARY
OFFICE STAFF
OFFICE SUPERVISOR
MARKETING STAFF

2 years experience is a must.

Send your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture at:

AHEAD TUTORIAL & REVIEW CENTER
2/F FBR Bldg., 317 Katipunan Avenue,
Loyola Heights, Quezon City

HEADWAY
Management Services Corp.
URGENTLY NEEDS:

- **Programmers- Oracle/VB6/C++/ASP**
- **Accounting Clerks-w/ 1-2 yr. experience**
- **Telemarketers/Customer Service Rep.**
- **Admin. Asst./Secretary/Tel. Operator**
- **Data Encoder/Office Clerks**
- **Merchandisers/Drivers**
- **Whse Clerks-preferably from Laguna/Cavite**

Apply at Rm. 818 Ortigas Bldg. Ortigas Ave. Pasig. Submit the ff: Resume, Pic.-2x2,NBI Clearance, Transcript of Record

---

ASSOCIATE REALTOR

We are seeking an articulate and creative Associate Realtor to work with us. Preferably with extensive contacts and experience and a real estate license. Attractive compensation package.

Submit your resume at Suite 101, FCC Building, 119 Rada Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City

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FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

A multinational company, engaged in cementing and stimulation services for oil and geothermal wells, has an immediate opening for a **TRAINEE** with the following qualifications :

- Male, not more than 30 years old.
- A graduate of Chemical, Mechanical or Petroleum Engineering,
- Related experience in oil or geothermal field, an advantage
- Willing to work flexible hours; (office / field)

Apply in person with resumé at :

302 Dow Jones Bldg., Km19 West Service Road
South Superhighway, Sucat, Parañaque City

中華崇仁總醫院暨醫學中心
菲律濱中華崇仁總醫院

CHINESE GENERAL HOSPITAL
and MEDICAL CENTER

MANILA PHILIPPINES TELS. 711-41-41 TO 44

OWNED AND OPERATED BY PHILIPPINE-CHINESE CHARITABLE ASSOCIATION, INC.

286 BLUMENTRITT ST., STA. CRUZ, MANILA

WE ARE IN NEED OF:

A Certified Public Accountant

- BSC graduates of reputable schools.
- Not more than 32 years old.
- Minimum of 5 years corporate accounting and auditing experience in a supervisory capacity.
- Must have an updated knowledge of institutional tax regulations and procedures.
- Of proven competence, integrity and honesty.

Please bring the ff: Comprehensive resumé, Transcript, PRC ID, Board Rating, NBI/ Police clearance, 2x2 colored pix, char. ref with phone nos., and personally submit showing the original copies thereof to the Personnel Office, Ground Flr., Main Building, on or before October 15, 2003.

DEDICATED TO THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY. EVERYBODY IS WELCOME REGARDLESS OF RACE, CREED OR NATIONALITY

Axis Global Technologies, Inc.

Axis Global Technologies, Inc. is one of the leading distributors of IT products in the Philippines. We currently represent some of the biggest names in the computer industry. We are currently looking for talented, hard working, self-motivated and result-oriented individuals to join our team. If you feel that you meet the qualifications below, please submit your resume, transcript of records and a two by two picture to our HR Department from 9AM to 4PM Mondays thru Saturdays not later than October 31, 2003.

Gearing Towards Excellence

HR AND ADMIN MANAGER

Responsibilities:
- The candidate will be responsible for the full spectrum of HR functions to include implementation, monitoring & administration of HR plans, systems & procedures in areas of Staffing, Employee & Labor Relations, Training, Performance Management,
- Compensation & Benefits, and Organization Development.

The incumbent will be directly reporting to the VP for Operations.

Requirements:
- Candidates must have a college degree in Psychology or Behavioral Science. Masters degree in Human Resource Management and/or Business Administration is an advantage but not required.
- Must have 5 years experience in all HR functions including Staffing & Recruitment, Employee Relations, Training, Employee Relations, Employee Benefits Administration and Organization Development
- With excellent written and verbal communication skills
- With strong leadership ability, good interpersonal relations
- Computer literate, articulate, self motivated and possesses self discipline
- Capable of implementing and sustaining change management programs

Specific Competencies:
Analytical, Adaptable, Good Resource Management, Good Decision Making, and Good Problem Solving Skills.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their comprehensive resume with recent 2x2 picture to:

Head Office: AXIS GLOBAL CORPORATE CENTER
Human Resource Department
20 North Road cor. 3rd Ave.,
Cubao Quezon City, M.M.
Email: hrd@axisglobal.com
Or visit our website at www.axisglobal.com

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CRS
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Catholic Relief Services, the overseas relief and development agency of the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (CRS-USCCB), Philippine Program needs a highly qualified individual for a contractual position of:

TRAINING AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TTA) COORDINATOR
Microfinance Alliance Fund

The Microfinance Alliance Fund (MAF) is a joint project started in 2000 between Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and the Catholic Organization for Relief and Development (CORDAID), a Dutch agency. MAF assists microfinance institutions in Southeast Asia to achieve the transformation process to self-sustainable financial institutions that provide access to the needs of credit and other financial services to the poor.

The TTA Coordinator is responsible for identifying and providing the training and capacity building needs of microfinance institutions and potential partners supported by the MAF. His/Her responsibilities include, but are not limited to, setting-up a pool of individuals and organizations from Southeast Asia that can provide training and technical assistance to MAF-partners; conducting training needs assessments, assisting in the preparation of training modules, monitoring progress of training and technical assistance, preparing operational plans and budgets for the MAF's capacity building component. He/She must ensure timely, effective, and efficient delivery of these services.

Qualifications

A postgraduate degree, preferably an MBA from a reputable university, with sound grounding of Economics, Finance, and Accounting
At least five (5) years experience in microfinance institutions; Preferably with experience working on microfinance program in a developing country
Demonstrated capacity and experience in institutional diagnosis, training and technical assistance with organizations involved in microfinance
Good knowledge of the microfinance sector in an international context, particularly in Southeast Asian region
Excellent English communication skills (verbal and written)
Strong network with government, non-government, and Church organizations, particularly those involved in the microfinance sector
Computer literate in MS Word and Excel with ability to master other microfinance software quickly
Willing and able to travel in Southeast Asia region at least 20 days a month:
Can work independently with minimal supervision

Interested individuals must submit an application letter, comprehensive resume with personal references via e-mail on or before **October 17, 2003** to:

THE MICROFINANCE RTA
Catholic Relief Services-USCCB, Philippine Program
Intramuros, Manila
E-mail: **hr-admin@crs-org.ph**
(Only qualified applicants will be notified.)

MTPinoy.com, one of the fastest growing medical transcription companies, has career opportunities for:

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Minimum two (2) years experience, male/female, single, not more than 30 years old, a graduate of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, Medical Technology, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and other allied health courses. Can accurately edit and/or transcribe at least 45 wpm. Must be residing in Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, or Parañaque area.

We offer competitive compensation packages. No night, graveyard, or weekend shifts. If interested, email your application letter and resumé to **personnel@mtpinoy.com**

Many helping hands reach out to 'student in distress'

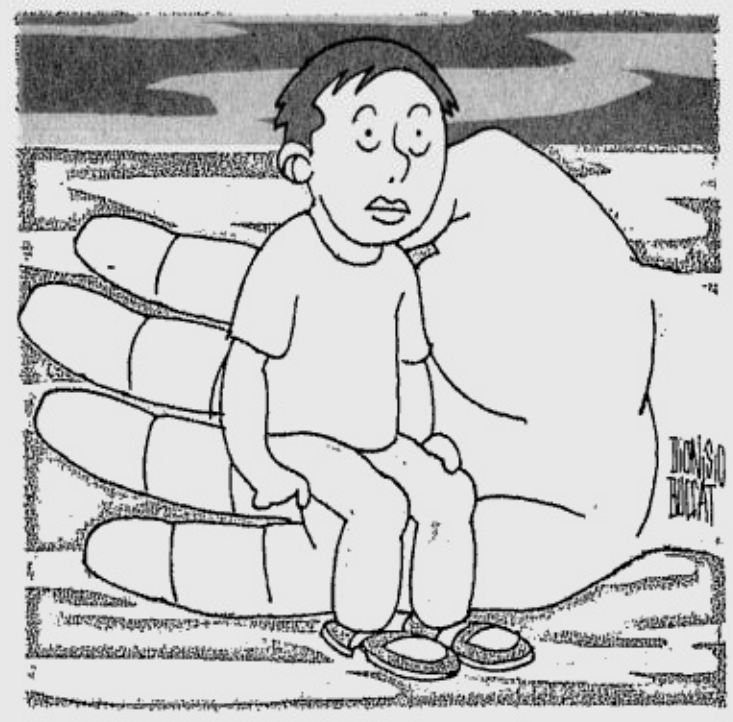


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

By Tita Datu Puangco

THE FILIPINO may have cultural flaws, but he also has plenty of virtues. One of these virtues is his generosity, his capability to help people in need. Our caring for other people has enabled our country to survive economic crises. Our extended family system allows us to take care of the unemployed among us. Many Christian movements, non-governmental organizations and civic clubs have come forward to extend help to the poor.

Thanks

In today's column, I want to focus on the generous people, both individuals and families, who immediately offered help to "Student in Distress" whose letter was published March 19, 2003. However, the letter writer has not come forward. Probably he or she is a Wednesday reader of People at Work but my column has moved to the Sunday issue. Through this article, I urge the letter writer to get in touch with me.

We want to recognize and thank the people who have come forward to offer help by publishing their letters. We hope they are open as well to our other readers who need help. I also apologize for being unable to respond to your letters earlier.

As mentioned in an earlier column, Ancilla consultants have offered to do career coaching as public service. We have tried getting in touch with a number of our readers who have made requests through this column. We hope I good number of them have found fulfilling jobs. Interested readers can write us with details as to how we can get in touch with you. Many thanks and God bless you.

Feedback

Here are feedback from readers:

"Hi, I read your article about the honor student who needs work to continue his studies. I don't have much money myself but I would like to help. I can readily give him a small amount (around Php2,000) and maybe, he can add this to other readers' contribution for his tuition. Or, I am thinking, I can sponsor his daily *baon* and fare needs (approximately about Php50 a day times 30 days) and another reader can sponsor his book and supplies requirements, and another reader would sponsor his tuition needs, etc. Just a thought." (JBC)

Job offer

"I read your column on Ms. Student in Distress and I am interested in checking out her credentials, if she can fit in our office. I am a practicing lawyer in need of a secretary. If Ms. Student in Distress has any exposure in steno (a must in our set-up), we can probably hire her as legal secretary, and she will be free to leave the office after 5:30 p.m. for possible evening classes. If she is interested, she can send me her resumé." (ATL)

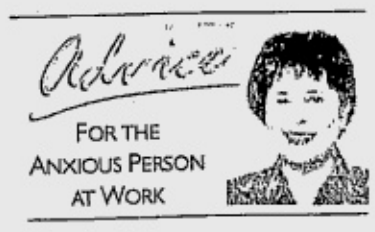
"I'd like to help Student in Distress. I may not have that much but I can shell out a little in financial assistance and plenty of moral support. How do I get in touch with this person? Thank you." (JJL)

Opportunity

"This column caught our attention and we are interested in helping the student who is in distress. The nature of our business is real estate, owner/developer of condominium units, townhouses and single detached units. We have on-going projects located in Metro Manila and we are constantly looking for applicants who would want to join our growing company. Any information about the student in distress will be highly appreciated so we can schedule her for an interview. For more information about our company, you may want to visit our website: www.techno-asia.com.ph or you can send an email to us at techasia@pworld.net.ph. Looking forward to hearing from you." (Nelson M. Terrible, President, Techno-Asia Construction And Development, Inc.)

"This is in response to the letter of Student in Distress in your column last March 19, 2003. I would like to invite her to apply in our company, ContactPoint Outsource Services, Inc. We are a call center and we are looking for people who have excellent communication skills and who would like to develop their sales potential. If she is interested, we are more than willing to accommodate her for an interview and screening. We offer competitive compensation and benefit package. I can be contacted though this email address or through telephone nos. 687-8171/687-8195. Thank you and more power." (Maylene Adelle G. Cabradilla, Senior Supervisor · Human Resources Group, ContactPoint Outsource Services, Inc., 2/F Taipan Place, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas, Pasig City, Tel. nos. 687-1871/687-8290.)

(Ms Puangco is CEO and chair of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send feedback through email to advice@ ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902)*



First paycheck nostalgia

By Resty S. Odon

GONE are the days when paydays didn't forebode monstrous traffic jams and midnight madness mall specials. Those are the halcyon days of yore, the days of innocence, one that never knew terrorism and other apocalyptic horrors. It was the time I first tasted how it was to receive a paycheck.

I treated my first paycheck as my first ever certificate to working class status. The time it landed on my fingers can only be described as a filmic moment, requiring no less than a 'slo-mo,' a 'zoom-in,' and the most melodramatic music in the background.

However, when my eyes began to examine the tax cut, which was, needless to say, substantial, my pay slip momentarily became a cause for great dismay. It reduced the net figure into a big joke. This reminds me of a writer's classic reaction when she received the check for an article published: "Should I encash or laminate?"

Nevertheless, I felt a special kind of pride about it. My first paycheck gave me a feel of how it was to be a productive citizen of the Republic—in possession of tax identification number (TIN) and best viewed by economists as good-as-cash, good-as-cash-cow. Now I have acquired an even greater right to complain about government, especially bad government.

While I haven't exactly gone to the extent of laminating my certificate with a glossy finish, you can be sure I have kept the document in some vault, away from the prying eyes of my parents and siblings.

The very next day, I joined my fellow new hires for breakfast at a nearby fast-food joint. Within the week, I was able to pay my rent, buy a decent pair of shoes, and submit some of the balance to my mother's waiting hands. The excitement of having money to burn!

It was power if there ever was one. It rendered me a sociopolitical and economic animal, a bona fide 'capita' in the phrase, 'per capita income.' Then, there was this concomitant realization: "I live here. I belong here. Make way for me."

Pretty soon, paydays would come and go like the seasons and my succeeding paychecks would lose their novelty. From time to time, they would cause some disappointment when I noticed some minor errors. But other than that, paychecks turned out to be just another piece of paper from the accounting department.

(Send contributions to Postcards from the Corporate Edge to rreyes@inquirer.com.ph.*)*

The Women's Health & Safe Motherhood Project-Partnerships Component,
a Project of the Government of the Philippines with funding support from the European Union (EU), is currently in need of:

TRANSLATORS

Who will translate various training manuals and handouts in Community Health Development (CHD) from: (1) English to Cebuano, (2) English to Waray, (3) English to Filipino and (4) Filipino to English.

Qualifications:
- Extensive experience in translating instructional materials for use in community-based projects
- First language level communication skills in Cebuano, Waray or Filipino
- Excellent writing and editing skills in English and Filipino
- Bachelor's degree in Communications
- Able to work under pressure and deliver expected outputs on time and to the required standard

GRAPHIC ARTIST

Who will produce four 15-minute presentations in Macromedia Flash.

Qualifications:
- Mastery of Macromedia Flash
- Demonstrated ability to produce interesting and high quality presentations using Flash
- Excellent conceptual skills
- Able to work under pressure and deliver expected outputs on time and to the required standard

The Positions Are Short-Term, Output-Based Engagements
Only Those Who Meet The Above Qualifications Should Apply

Interested applicants should submit their response letter, comprehensive resume with a recent photo, on or before
15 October 2003 to:

THE HRM OFFICER
Women's Health Project—Partnerships Component
5B Osmena Bldg., 1991 Mabini St.
Malate, Manila
Fax: (632) 536-6406 E-mail: whsmpc@info.com.ph

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TREASURY ASSISTANT

APPLICANT MUST BE:
- AN ECONOMICS OR ACCOUNTING GRADUATE
- BACKGROUND IN CURRENCY TRADING WILL BE AN ESSENTIAL
- SHOULD NOT BE OVER 28 YEARS OLD
- ATTRACTIVE SALARY AWAITS FOR RIGHT APPLICANTS.

Interested aspirants are encourage to email their resumé at my_j0b@yahoo.com or you may fax them at 7235100
Tel. No. 7234700

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Poblacion, Biñan, Laguna
E-mail: **trimex@surfspeed.pacific.net.ph**

Needed by a Group of Companies in the Security Business

SUPERVISING ACCOUNTANT

- CPA
- At least 5 years supervisory experience in general accounting, and preparation of financial statements
- Computer literate
- Strong leadership qualities
- Preferably resident of CAMANAVA area

Interested applicants may send their Resumé with 2"x2" colored picture to:

The Personnel Department
34 Gov. Pascual Avenue, Acacia, Malabon City
Fax No. 287-8737

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IS IN IMMEDIATE NEED FOR AN

EXECUTIVE SOUS CHEF

- At least college level with formal training course in European Cooking
- 8-10 years of extensive practical experience handling various aspects of kitchen operations, including Administration Staff Management and Training, Marketing, Cost Control, and Yield Management.
- Possesses excellent communication, interpersonal, and leadership skills.
- Experience in working with a large-scale hotel or restaurant is an advantage.

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE INVITED TO SEND RESUMÉ TO

The Human Resources Department
CPO Box 4430
Manila

A leading community newspaper in Pampanga is looking for:

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Qualifications:
- Graduate of Journalism or related course
- Minimum of 3 years experience in editorial work
- Managerial experience preferred
- Knowledge of editorial systems operation

Responsibilities:
- Edits daily newspaper
- Responsible for the day-to-day operation of the editorial department
- Prepares plans, programs and strategies for department
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Please mail your application letter and comprehensive resumé to
The General Manager
Sun•Star Pampanga, Tita's Bldg. II
San Fernando-Olongapo road
City of San Fernando, Pampanga

Wanted for immediate hiring :

CHANNEL SALES OFFICER

- 23-28 years old, Male or Female
- Graduate of any course in business or computer sci.
- Excellent communication skills

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- 23-28 years old, Male or Female
- Grad. of computer science w/exp. in OCR technology

Send your application letter & resume to:**MACROMIND**
4th floor, Bldg. B, Cyberzone, **SM MEGAMALL**

An innovative and dynamic company in the field of advertising, publishing & marketing communications seeks the following:

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Successful candidates will be tasked with developing advertiser accounts in assigned industries and categories. Responsibilities will include planning, cold-calling, making sales presentations, meeting sales targets and on-time submission of required reports to management.

We are looking for self-motivated, goal-oriented achievers who love the art of selling, are team players and are willing to put in the hours to succeed. A background in advertising or sales is a plus but not required.

Performance-based compensation package will include monthly salary, transportation allowance, bonuses, incentives and commissions.

TELEMARKETERS & SALES ASSISTANTS

Successful candidates will support account managers. Multi-tasking responsibilities will include research, appointment-setting, filing reports, providing sales support and meeting weekly appointments targets.

Qualified applicants may fax resume to 895-7572
or email: sales@handycitypages.com

METRO INDEX REALTY & DEVELOPMENT CORP. is a highly dynamic player in the real estate industry. We are looking for pro-active & talented individuals to fill up the following positions:

REGIONAL MARKETING HEAD for PAMPANGA/TARLAC/BATAAN and FINANCE MANAGER – above 35-40 years old. 10 years experience in Realty Marketing, within 5 years as a Supervisor. Preferably with Master's degree. Fluent in written and spoken English, Amiable, friendly, with a big heart. Salary and benefits negotiable.

RESEARCH & DEVT. ENGR. – Graduated as BS M.E. or BS C.E. Research on old, new and innovative methods regarding construction techniques and equipments. Responsible for the implementation and development.

PROJECT ENGINEERS – BS C.E. With 3-5 years experience. With knowledge in PRIMAVERA or PERT CMP. Know how in estimates and can handle large pool of construction workers. Can handle project supervision and management. Monitor project accomplishments, quality assurance and control

COMPANY DRIVER – At least 40 years old, married, with or without child. Wife is expert cook (Italian food).

CONSTRUCTION FOREMAN – Graduated as BS C.E. or undergraduate as BS Architect 5-10 years experience. Provide pool of construction workers and maintain progress development among them. Handles construction of 2-Storey Houses, Clubhouse and Land Developments from roughing-in to finishing. Basic knowledge in computer. Can estimate. Know in electrical, structural, plumbing, painting, carpentry, and other aspects of construction.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS – 3 years and above experience for Construction and development of a 70 Hectare. Know how to write. Efficient and effective workers.

INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER – With analytical, strategic, and imaginative skills. Experience is an advantage.

LADY GUARD for Parañaque Based – Preferably with experience, willing to be assigned in different shifts

Residents of Pampanga is an advantage or must be willing to work in San Fernando, Pampanga. All emails will be acknowledged, however only candidates under consideration will be contacted.

Contact person: *Ms. Abbie Lee 8292563* • Email: *metroindexrealty@uplink.com.ph*
Requirements: *Comprehensive Resumé, 2x2 colored picture, Transcript of Records*

Aura Athletica, a new and exclusive athletic wear store,

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Computer literate

Offer attractive salary / benefits package

Send resumé to: Melanie Lozano
6735 Ayala Avenue, Urdaneta Apartments, Makati City
Or e-mail/inquire at lia.infante@auraathletica.com

Punla sa Tao Foundation

is in need of a

SENIOR COOPERATIVE SPECIALIST

Qualifications:
1. Must have at least 3 years management experience in a senior capacity. Experience with a foreign-assisted project, an advantage.
2. Preferably, with advance degree in development management, economics, banking or finance.
3. With extensive experience on capacity building for credit and savings cooperatives.
4. Proven ability to manage a multi-stakeholder environment that includes community leaders, government officials, donors, specialists, and consultants.
5. Excellent English communication skills; knowledge of Ilokano, an additional advantage.
6. Willing to travel in the upland communities of Nueva Viscaya and Benguet.

The successful candidate will be posted in Nueva Viscaya until March 2004. Please send your application letter and comprehensive resumé with references and picture to punla@info.com.ph or to the address below before October 18, 2003:

Ms. Marcia Feria-Miranda
President and Executive Director
Punla sa Tao Foundation
Room 306 CRM Bldg. 3, #106 Kamias Road, Quezon City
Tel no. (02) 928-1109 / (02) 928-1257

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DUALTECH CENTER

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- 5 years teaching experience
- Male

Applicants may send their resumé by email to
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HR Dept - Global City Innovative College
3/f Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St., cor. 2nd Ave., Cresent Park West, Bonifacio Global City Taguig 1634

Tel 7575588 TXT: 09198084070

We are in need of a:

Junior Geodetic Engineer

whose main responsibility is land development and construction survey.

If you are:
- male, preferably in mid 20's to early 30's;
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- with related work experience for three years;
- with knowledge in autocad software; and
- willing to be assigned in Laguna.

You may send your resumé at:

Box MK-131
c/o Classified Ads Dept.
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City

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Please submit your Resumé/CV together with a recent photo on or before **Monday, October 20th 2003** to:

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Applicant may apply in person with their complete credentials at: 4th Floor, Tektite Tower West, PSE Center, Exchange Road, Pasig City and call up 638-5690 Look for Dang

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- Background / Experience in security an advantage

Interested applicants may

Email: **spectrum@businessprofiles.com.ph**
Fax: **(02) 8120315 or (032) 2318401**

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2. With experience in marketing or public relations

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2. Must be computer literate w/ three years experience in handling of student records

Submit resumé/apply in person at the above given address or send resumé at:
Unit 1230 City & Land Mega Plaza, Cor. Garnet Rd., ADB Ave., Ortigas Ctr., Pasig City

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Send Bio-data to : **#210 Zodiac Street, Palm Village, Suite 102, Makati City**
Or call : **895-6132 / 895-6108**

HR practitioner relies on five rules for success

By Candy G. Villanueva

A QUICK scan of his extensive resume shows that at the young age of 24, Mike Mapua is swiftly climbing the ladder of success. Michael Francis B. Mapua is the Human Resources Specialist of Splash Corporation. Only three years in the HR field, Mapua is considered a prized asset of the company. He presently heads Splash's Human Capital Planning and Acquisition, which provides the best talents for the company.

Started in 1985, Splash Corporation saw its beginnings as a backyard business of husband and wife team Drs. Rolando and Rosalinda Hortaleza, MD. Today, it is the largest Filipino-owned company that competes strongly in an industry that has long been dominated by big multinational corporations. Splash is responsible for hundreds of glowing flawless faces with trusted beauty products like Skin White, Hiyas Papaya, Maxi Peel, Extraderm, Kolours and Tricks styling gel.

Career guidelines

As an upwardly mobile professional, Mapua meets career challenges with his own five rules for success. The first and second rules are from the Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu and they are "Know thy enemy" and "Always plan ahead of time." His third rule is, "Go beyond your limits and capabilities. Make sure to consistently improve your competencies, go out of your way in learning new paradigms, systems, trends, ways and means in doing things." The fourth rule is "Act like an owner, put value in everything that you do and definitely, the company you're working with will treasure you." And finally, he encourages the youth to "work hard, play hard and enjoy!"

Mapua earned his degree in management, major in Human Resources, at De La Salle University in 1999. HR is a passion for Mapua but he has other goals as well. His desire to lead and make a difference goes beyond the realms of HR. It is also his intent to pursue public service. With public service in mind, he enrolled at the University of Santo Thomas to take up law while working. After a year, he stopped his studies because it was difficult for him to fund his own education and be the breadwinner of his family at the same time.

Constantly seeking to improve himself, Mapua went back to the La Salle campus in 2002 for a Post-Baccalaureate Diploma Program in HR Management. This year, this avid learner is taking his Masters in Business Administration at the Ateneo de Manila University.

HR Focus

Armed with an impressive education, Mapua had plunged into his HR career head on. He started with Metrobank and then, moved on to John Clements Consultants, Inc. before he settled in Splash Corporation.

Helping people find jobs

In his desire to help people find jobs, he also helped establish a strategic recruitment management system or software for candidate management and job postings to different organizations providing e-recruitment services. "I want to serve and make a difference not only to an organization but also to the people," Mapua explains.

This people person loves his place in HR because "I am not only able to help the organization by providing the needed manpower for a specific critical position but I am also able to help people get jobs and provide decent livelihood not only to the candidates I hired but also to their families." He adds, "I really feel so satisfied to be able to understand and address the behaviors, needs and wants of the people. In a nutshell, I really like to deal with different kinds of people."

PHOTO BY ROGER CARPIO

MAPUA, highflyer HR yuppie

Plans

Mapua plans to soar to greater heights in his career. "My quest is for productivity and excellence to enhance my competencies in the discipline of human resource management and development," Mapua declares. He wishes to link people and corporate strategy through value-creating processes. In this way, he hopes to become a "strategic business partner" of the organization.

He urges young people like him to take the same flight. "Explore and discover new things that could drive you to reach your primary objectives in life. Don't waste time. Look for opportunities. Opportunities knock only once. Believe in God. I've believed in Him all my life. All the things I've done are also a result of His blessings."

Create 'Moments ...

From page K14

High quality service must be defined so employees know what it looks like and how to provide it.

2. **Train well**. The commitment must include the time, money, and effort necessary to train employees properly. When service expectations are raised, employees must be given whatever skills needed to meet or exceed those expectations.

3. **Monitor and measure service**. Service has to be made concrete so that it can be monitored, measured and made a part of everyone's performance review. In general, there are three ways to monitor service:
   a) Ask customers for feedback;
   b) Observations of management; and
   c) Use of "mystery shoppers" who pose as customers and rate service on many dimensions.

4. **Reward or retrain**. People who excel at providing excellent service should be rewarded; those who need help should be coached or retrained. Your goal is to empower people to be creative, resourceful and autonomous in their jobs. If they are punished for mistakes, they will become defensive and stop thinking creatively. The better approach is to coach, retrain and show them better, alternative solutions.

Effective Communication

One of the goals of customer-driven service is to change the service-provider's focus from individual transactions to long-term relationships. Effective communication is the key to building and maintaining long-term relationships and can be looked at from two perspectives: the macro and the micro. The macro level is the communication strategies used to stay in touch with customers. The micro level is the communication skills used when interacting with customers.

Customer-driven companies encourage communication in which customers feel comfortable giving feedback on how well the company is doing its job. This feedback should be solicited on a regular basis.

Conflict resolution system

The third major building block of customer-driven service is a system for turning moments of misery into moments of magic. We have already conceded that moments of misery are bound to happen. Every company must, therefore, have a set of guidelines that helps employees "right the wrong." Customers do not expect companies to be perfect. They do, however, expect imperfections to be corrected quickly, painlessly and fairly.

Every moment of misery is different, but there are some general guidelines that will give you insight into turning them around. When a problem occurs, listen actively, ask questions and mentally trade places with your customer. Then, determine the severity of the problem and a fair solution.

Incorporate the following steps into your conflict resolution system:

1. **Handle the person first, then the problem**. Let angry people vent their frustrations by listening to them before trying to solve their problem. This alone will go a long way toward resolving the problem.

2. **Apologize**. Offer a sincere, personal apology that shows you are committed to the relationship.

3. **Show empathy**. Validate customers' emotions by letting them know that you would feel the same way if their problem happened to you.

4. **Find a solution**. Resolve the problem with your customers, not for them. Ask questions that get them involved in the solution process.

5. **Offer compensation**. If the moment of misery was severe enough, you need to say and show that you are sorry. Compensation should be immediate (no time delays), meaningful (high perceived value), and consumable (something that can be used or eaten soon so the incident is forgotten).

6. **Follow up**. After resolving a problem, you must follow up to make sure everything is satisfactory from the customer's perspective.

Meeting standards of excellence in business has always been important, but in today's increasingly competitive marketplace, it is absolutely essential for your company's survival and success. To meet those standards of excellence, your company and every one of its representatives in every one of its departments must have a customer-driven orientation and provide consistent moments of magic.

(Dr. Alessandra is author of "The Platinum Rule" and a sought after motivational speaker based in the US. Visit his web site at www.alessandra.com.)

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SundayPEOPLEatWORK

Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

Create 'Moments of Magic' in your company

by Dr. Tony Alessandra

DIFFERENTIATION is the key to survival and success in any business. There are three key fronts on which you can fight the differentiation battle: price, quality, and service. Your ability to compete on price is limited. You can cut your margins just so far without jeopardizing your operation. It's difficult to compete on quality too.

Modern technology has caused most products to become commodities; hence, there is often little difference between Brand A and Brand B. Service is, therefore, the best strategy for competing in the marketplace. Being on par in terms of price and quality only gets you into the game. Service wins the game.

Moment of Truth

In 1981, Jan Carlzon took over as chairman of one of Europe's most poorly rated airlines, Scandinavian Airline Systems (SAS). Carlzon quickly implemented many changes, the most important of which was to manage the interactions that SAS employees had with its customers.

In 1987, Carlzon wrote a book entitled, "Moments of Truth," in which he said, "Last year, each of our 10 million customers came in contact with approximately five SAS employees, and this contact lasted an average of 15 seconds each time. Thus, SAS is 'created' in the minds of our customers 50 million times a year, 15 seconds at a time. These 50 million 'moments of truth' are the moments that ultimately determine whether SAS will succeed or fail as a company."

Carlzon hit upon a concept that is simple yet profound. Every single contact between any employee and a customer is an important contact, regardless of its length or content. The term "Moment of Truth" describes a contact that is neutral in nature.

Moments of Misery

As we all know, however, there are other kinds of interactions between employees and customers. "Moments of Misery" describe interactions that have negative outcomes. A "Moment of Magic" is an interaction that exceeds the expectations of your customer and leaves him/her with a positive impression.

Moments of misery are a fact of life because people and companies are not perfect. Mistakes happen, which is unfortunate, because research has shown that customers tell an average of 20 people about moments of misery; but they tell only ten people about moments of magic. To break even, therefore, you have to create twice as many moments of magic. Of course, the point is not to stay even; it is to stay ahead by managing interactions and making them moments of magic.

Moments of magic

How are moments of magic consistently achieved? The bottom-line answer is that a company has to be customer-driven versus operations-driven, where it puts the needs of its customers first. An operations-driven company puts its needs, policies, and procedures first. A customer-driven company may bend its own rules to please its customers. An operations-driven company uses its policy manual as its Bible and will, if necessary, disappoint customers by invoking the most ignorant excuse on the face of the earth: "I'm sorry, it's against company policy."

Since the middle of the 1980's, a lot of companies have talked about becoming customer-driven. Everyone aspires to becoming the next Nordstrom, Federal Express, or L.L. Bean. The transformation has worked for some, but for others it has been only talk. Talking the talk does not transform a company. Real change takes a concerted effort that requires commitment, communication, and a system for conflict resolution.

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The foundation: commitment

Without commitment, customer-driven service will be just another flavor-of-the-month training that will sharpen the skeptics' barbs. Customer-driven service requires a 100 percent commitment throughout the organization, starting with the CEO. This top-down company strategy must include people who interact with customers, and employees who serve in support positions. The reason is simple: customers must be defined broadly, and that definition must include "internal customers." Interactions between departments are analogous to interactions with external customers—they are subject to moments of magic and moments of misery.

The commitment to customer-driven service requires four very important steps:

1. **Set clear objectives and service standards.**

CREATE MOMENTS/K12

What's inside

Advice for the Anxious Person at Work
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PAGE K10

How do you respond to 'zingers' during a job interview?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I went on a job interview that felt more like target practice. What do you when they start asking "trick" questions that have nothing to do with the job?

Bullseye

If anyone knows about target practice, it's John Weston. He was riding his motorcycle to his job selling newspapers when someone opened fire at him. Weston felt a couple of blasts, felt no pain, assumed they were blanks, and kept on going to work. That night he went home and took off his coat. Voila: a mass of bloody bullet holes in his chest and arms.

Sounds too weird to be true, I know. But it's no weirder than some of the questions interviewers are coming up with these days. Your trick is to learn how to take those pot shots and be the one left standing. I've included some actual questions below. For more, check out "The 250 Interview Questions You're Most Likely to Be Asked" by Peter Veruki (Adams Media, 1999).

How many airplanes are flying over the US right now? No, I'm not kidding. Some interviewer actually asked this question. The poor applicant didn't know and neither did the interviewer! So if you get a zinger like this one, just show 'em a clear thought process. Start with your assumptions—the number of US airports, the average number of planes at each—then, take a gander on the number that might be aloft at any moment. You can reduce any "problem-solving" type question to a similar series of "think-through-able" bits.

What color is your brain? Obviously not the same as yours, bozo! If you get a "creative" question like this one, there's no right answer. But be sure to avoid the logo colors of their biggest competitor.

Sell me this stapler. This is a popular gambit for sales interviews. Give a thirty-second sales pitch that focuses on the benefits of the stapler and skip the hard sell. The goal isn't to sell the stapler—it's to get the job.

What are your weaknesses? Hackneyed! This question's been around for eons, but it's still being asked. One strategy is to describe something that's really a strength—"I'm a workaholic," for example. A less transparent one is to describe an old weakness and show them how you overcame it.

What is your ideal job? What a setup! But don't give in to the temptation to describe the job you're applying for. They'll see through it. Instead, describe a job that combines elements of the job you're applying for along with other jobs in the company.

Tell me about yourself. Whoops, did I enter the therapist's office by mistake? Develop a basic one-minute

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

rap that covers your experience, skills, accomplishments and goals. And remember, this is just the executive summary; keep it short.

Everybody takes shots in an interview. But if you've got a plan for those zingers, you should be able to take the hits without getting too bloodied.

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com poll: How do you handle zinger questions during a job interview? (775 responses)

—Dazzle them with data, 23.2%

—Baffle them with BS, 34.7%

—Hey, it's only a job, 42%

(Mr. Rosner is the author of bestsellers "The Boss's Survival Guide," McGraw Hill 2001, and "Working Wounded," Warner 2000, a speaker and founder of the award-winning Working Wounded.com and Retention Evangelist.com. He is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. Email him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

Bet on Jesus

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

WHERE I used to work a long, long time ago—in the nation's leading daily—some people believed in mice playing while the cat is away.

When the boss was on some out of town trip, or taking a three-hour lunch, the staff would play "*pekwa*."I never joined them for I saw it as criminal waste of time, but I would note with amusement how my co-staffers would get excited over winning some loose change "*para pangkape lang*!" I'd hear them set the rules—"*Singko-singko lang ang taya*!"—and I'd be amazed no end when someone would shout with glee for having won a round.

I was to understand soon enough that the thrill in gambling lies in the uncertainty of it all. Even if it's only for "*katuwaan*," betting on a hunch and winning gives a player a kick like no other.

Following Jesus is very much like gambling in that He asks you to give up everything—everything for His sake and the gospel's—in order to gain a hundred times more. (Goodness, not even the pyramid scam can promise you that!) What person in his right mind would nowadays give up everything (possessions, property, persons) to bet on something as vague as Jesus' promises? Yet, as history proves over and over again, no other winner has struck it richer than the Man they crucified two thousand years ago but who still lives on in the hearts of over a billion followers up to now.

If you want to win, really win, "gamble" on Jesus—He'll welcome anything you give up for Him, even if all you have is your last *pang-pekwa* in your pocket. *(Email the author at* avemaria@csi.com.ph.*)*

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

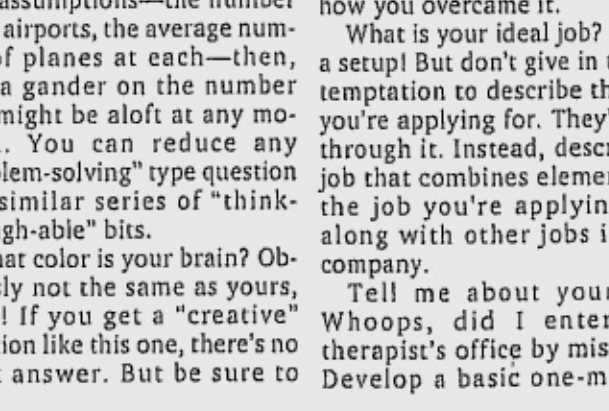

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Mark 10;17-30

Jesus said, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and for the sake of the gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age."

Dare to be a fool

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

A JOURNALIST friend of mine gave up her enviable work as an editor with a big publishing company to join a small-time, religiously motivated publisher of a magazine for a marginalized sector of society, the blue collar workers. Some of her peers considered it a wrong career move, others wondered why she took such a direction, turning her back to a glamorous and influential position that paid her in US dollars and gave her many perks. My friend, however, was convinced to use her God-given talent "for the Lord's sake and for the gospel" to the point of sacrificing a rewarding career path.

It is rare to find a professional happy to find his career in the "downward" trend. Everybody works hard and competes to get to the top. One is ready to give up anything and anyone for his/her own self-aggrandizement but hardly for anybody else's sake or for another's welfare. One works and expects to be paid justly for one's services, and promptly, too. Promises of future rewards will not motivate a worker who is accustomed to get instant results and gratification for services rendered.

It takes extra courage and strength to adopt Christ's alternative path in one's career or professional life--a path that leads to the kingdom of heaven. We need to have complete faith and trust in Jesus, whose ways of working seem absurd and out of step with the world's trends; but who never fails in His promises. Working for the sake of Jesus will give us satisfaction a hundred times over, a unique experience that no material or worldly fortune can afford to pay, yet real experiences attested to by those who have become "fools for Christ's sake." *(Email the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net.*)*

sunday INQUIRER

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

October 12, 2003

Kate Torralba

A Girl's Girl

One of the hottest young designers in town is a bohemian babe and budding entrepreneur whose kooky, colorful creations are being snapped up by adventurous Pinays everywhere, from highschoolers to grandmothers

Kate on her living room couch with her keyboard; the paintings of her are by artist Kiko Escora

By Alya B. Honasan
Photograph by Rudy Esperas

THE LITTLE girl disappears among the racks of clothes in the most vibrant of colors—reds matched with pinks, screaming yellows, bright blues—and emerges with a polka-dotted '60s-style number with one kimono sleeve in red, the other in pink. Or what about a red top with what look like orange paint splashes, or a green and blue halter top with a wire ring for a neck fastener? "I've never really been a little-black-dress kind of girl," says 24-year-old designer Katrina "Kate" Torralba, herself clad in a bright green silk scarf stitched into a poncho top and a pair of well-worn jeans. "I'd have to wear that with a splash of yellow or red. I can't imagine living without colors! Besides, I believe they attract good energy!"

There's been a lot of that good energy in the air nowadays around Kate, one of the hottest young designers in town whose one-of-a-kind custom-made and off-the-rack pieces have had *fashionistas* snapping up her items before they warm the racks. Clients who include "everyone from high school kids to Makati executives and socialites"—with a lot of famous names thrown in—are perusing her collections at the boutique

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Jose Casiple was a school drop-out and janitor who took pains to finish college and became a principal

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First Person

By Lani T. Montreal

Missing Inday in Iowa

Here in Des Moines, where nobody I know knew her, she was only my kind aunt, my beloved uncle's partner of many, many years, loving mother to my beautiful cousin, Clara, and good friend to my mother. And I guess, in the end, this is all that matters

PDI PHOTO

THIS is how I grieve for Inday Badiday. I make baked macaroni: I chop onions, press the garlic, boil water for the pasta, sauté the ground beef. I clean the kitchen, then the bathroom. I tell stories to my partner who listens with a patient heart as I talk and talk and talk about this woman I had known since my teenage years.

She, who got me into journalism by introducing me to her brilliant sister then in need of an editorial assistant; who recycled gifts but always knew which gift she received would best fit which person; who never turned me away when I needed help in locating some playing-hard-to-get celebrity of the moment whose career she might have helped boost; who was this big, big celebrity herself whose magnitude in Philippine showbiz I can only equate to Oprah Winfrey's when explaining who she was to some American friends. Was. Hard to think of her in the past tense. And so I talk about my grief in the present tense for this woman I called *Tita* Luds.

"D hol kantri s prayng 4her," my friend from Manila texted me back when I told her two weeks ago about how worried I was about *Tita* Luds. The whole country, she stressed. But here in Des Moines, Iowa, "the third insurance capital of the world" (next only to London and Hartford, Iowans insist), with three skyscrapers to boast of, and acres of corn and rolling pastures bordering a city of about 200,000 people, I grieve alone for *Tita* Luds. Here, where nobody I know knew her, she was only my kind aunt, my beloved uncle's partner of many, many years, loving mother to my beautiful and serene teenage cousin, Clara, and good friend to my mother. And I guess, in the end, this is all that matters.

On the Internet I surf for news about her death. Instead I read stories and columns she wrote about other people. She was never one to tout her accomplishments or give interviews about herself. One of her columns was about the demise of actor Ricky Belmonte in 2001 which she said was the hardest for her to write. It is quite a revelation.

"All the while, I thought I knew him well," she wrote. "Funny, how we get to unravel the knotted threads of a person's life only when he is already dead. Sad when we come across certain previously unknown truths meshed together with well-told lies in a tapestry that's the sum total of a man's brief sojourn on this earth."

That she wrote so eloquently about how I am feeling now about her death is the revelation. I knew she was an intelligent woman, whose irreverence for middle-class propriety (the same one she belongs to) and fascination over the base and bizarre belied her erudition, but I didn't know she was a poet. I spend the night unearthing more of her beautiful writing, and those she wrote for her youngest daughter Clara are the most moving. Her Sunday column "Face-to-Face" in the Philippine Daily Inquirer began as newsbits about life among the celebrities. But after her first brush with death two years ago when she was diagnosed with a kidney ailment, it evolved into personal essays about her life as a working mother.

"After coming face-to-face with my mortality, I am awed by the utter preciousness of my life and all the little and big lessons it has taught me. I've collected quite a few of these nuggets, and now I wish to bequeath them to my daughter."

Anvil Publishing is compiling these nuggets and publishing them in a book titled "Dear Clara."

Tita Luds came into our lives stealthily, without celebrity or fanfare, my mother shushing us and my uncle smiling sheepishly whenever I asked. He acted like an infatuated schoolboy as we tussled over the use of the telephone, and he left the house at night looking and smelling like a million bucks. At the time, he had been estranged from his first wife and kids for awhile.

Uncle Gene (Palomo) is the quintessential favorite uncle everybody remembers having: the one who turned his pockets inside-out and gave you all his loose change if you asked for a penny. The handsome, mysterious and reckless uncle you seldom saw but made you feel like you were the most important person in the world when you did. The same uncle the adults in the family were always telling to "Grow up already!"

In the beginning Inday created a niche in our home. Literally. She transformed my uncle's small room into an oriental showcase for "Better Homes & Gardens," bringing in classy, finely-crafted bamboo furniture: a lacquered dark brown throne fit for a king, side tables, a dresser, a standing lamp whose shade opened like a paper umbrella, and a folding bed so firm and resilient I took it with me to my first apartment. There were throw pillows of all sizes, all of them, including the chair cushions and the bed, wrapped in pure red. Even the rug and the wicker blinds were the same fierce, uncompromising shade of red. I didn't meet Inday until later on in their courtship but her nocturnal visits weren't lost to me. Her scent always lingered long after she was gone--Diorissimo mixed with cigarette smoke. When I finally met her, I understood why she would never feel at home in my mother's safe earth colors, faux Victorian furniture, and lazy susan.

Over the years she eased us into her family of doctors, journalists, diplomats and lawyers. But no matter how welcoming they were, we never felt quite like family. It was all so alien to us--this world of uniformed help and pedigreed pets. But *Tita* Luds didn't seem to have trouble navigating between the two realities, coming to our gatherings with our home-cooked food and slippered guests, and then inviting us to her catered parties in their maze of a mansion in Esteban Abada with her impressive antique and art collection. Once, she even travelled with us on rough roads for eight hours to attend my cousin's wedding in rural Isabela, where we danced on dirt floors and she gamely posed for picture after picture with the starstruck *probinsiyanos*, inadvertently taking the limelight from the delighted newly-weds. (Lesson learned: Do not invite celebrities to your wedding unless you yourself are one.)

As their television show, "Eye to Eye," soared in ratings, *Tita* Luds' posse of neophyte actors, talent scouts, entertainment press and gofers seemed to swell. (I remember seeing the tragic-looking Robin Padilla constantly wearing his James Dean leather jacket in the 80-degree heat). Always, *Tita* Luds was an imposing presence in her memorable mumus and fully made-up face, cigarette eternally glowing between index and middle fingers. Sometimes, when I would go for a swim in their pool in the early afternoons, I would catch the couple just waking up wearing matching robes. I could never get reconciled with the sight of my silk-robed uncle, but while he remained the generous man I have always known him to be, he seemed no longer dangerous and mysterious. The best thing about it was, I knew where to find him if I needed to see him. He had become domesticated somehow.

When the two of them would travel to Korea to visit her father, Ambassador Nick Jimenez, they always came back with *pasalubong*—sweet and crunchy Korean pears, stuffed toys and clothes. My birthday falls on the day after my uncle's so *Tita* Luds never forgot it and usually gave me a card with some cash in it, always a welcome treat for a college student and later on, a struggling journalist like myself. When times were rough she readily offered assistance to my mother, and when I left for the US for the first time more than 10 years ago, she gave me her slightly-worn sweaters, some of which I have kept to this day.

A few years ago, she proved that her penchant for reuniting separated kin was not mere showbiz gimmick when she organized this huge out-of-town reunion for my mother's siblings who never thought it was possible to come together in one place. It seemed that this gift of "family," whether biological or chosen, was something she wanted to share with others, having grown up in one as large and close-knit as theirs.

Some years back, I had shed tears when I read a tabloid a friend had brought back from the Philippines headlining the break-up of my uncle and Inday. It was crass, and I had worried about its effect on my young cousin Clara. When I came home that time I was surprised that *Tita* Luds would ask to meet with me. I remember being in her office, her demeanor less daunting, her voice devoid of mirth. These were leaner times, and even her coterie was down to a few loyal friends. She chose her words well but they were not without bitterness, and by the time we came to a close, it was I she was trying to console, saying it's okay, and nothing had changed between us. I didn't think, until then, that she thought of me as more than just my uncle's "favorite niece."

In the end, when the mind begins to falter, even memory is not safe, and so only the moments matter. The last one I shared with *Tita* Luds was a chance meeting at Max's Fried Chicken at the Megamall early this year. I thought it a blessing to see them together, my uncle and Inday--now the best of friends. She had a posse with her again, but this time they were her minions of little ones—grandchildren galore—on a Sunday outing to see some Disney movie. She was wearing a simple floral blouse, her face unmade but radiant, and her preoccupation, less mundane. She had become more spiritual but in a sense also more grounded.

As I read online the past columns she wrote, the open laptop notebook becomes a window I view her with, not bedridden or lifeless, but triumphant over life's little mysteries.

"I'd like to share my own discoveries –how loving and losing can be similar when the condition of the heart is not right, how letting go can be the better option than winning, because the priceless things in life don't need a medal, how dying to self and living for others are the key to finding one's purpose in life." - Lourdes Jimenez Carvajal, August 6, 19__ September 26, 2003

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ORONOS' STYLIZED EXPRESSION
"Fish Vendors #1 (2nd Ed)" forms part of Ed Otis Orono's first solo exhibit, "Stylized Expression," showcasing more than 20 figurative works in mixed media. Exhibit runs until Oct. 20 at the Gallery Genesis, 4/L, Building A, SM Megamall. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Post-9/11 Doublespeak

In memory of the World Trade Center Twin Towers

The face of terror is the heap of the Twin Towers' intestines
Of steel and ribs protruding into the scorched skies of New York.
A mountain of dust—remembrance of cremated dreams and skyscrapers
Of desire—concealing a cemetery ablaze in the midst
Of conceit, right at the heart of a vengeance-seeking empire.
What seeds of hatred did you sow to deserve this
Beheading? How many children in this
Or some other clime did you gift with monsters
Parading as peace offerings?
How have you pushed them against the wall, to the edge
Of their wits? Whence balloons this arrogance
Coated with self-pity that pricked bursts
Into all-consuming paranoia?
More than half-a-century after, who is haunted
By the ghostly mushrooms of Nagasaki and Hiroshima?
The face of terror is a map of the world
Marked many times over with lines labeling
The long-identified enemy retrieved
From puzzled investigations and missing proofs
Only the voiceless casualties of Afghanistan, Iraq
And the Philippines can know, they who have the privilege
Of affirming the horrors of a familiar two-faced war.
Rhetorical alignments unwittingly unmask
Terror's instigators: from their seats in Washington
And Malacañang, they are spewing out fire
Into our living rooms.

Herminio S. Beltran Jr.

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Adding More Value To Gold

SMART Gold has long established itself as the regal post-paid brand of SMART for those with unparalleled standards and expectations. With its subscribers already assured a host of world-class premium services, SMART has once again raised the bar and introduced yet another 6 new features that will enhance the lifestyles of their subscribers. Although the essential purpose of celfones is to make and receive calls, as well as send and receive text messages, there are also a myriad other tasks and functions you can perform using your phone. These are designed to keep subscribers abreast on the latest news and trends that are relevant to their lifestyles, thereby elevating the status of celfones to "media tools" and not just "communication tools".

One of SMART Gold's new features, or value added services as they're called, is FA&Q Trivia—that's short for Funny, Amazing & Queer. Here, you'll find nuggets of news and info on real life adventures (and misadventures) that's sure to raise an eyebrow. How does it work? You start by activating your GPRS (that's the technical term used when you want to link your celfone to the worldwide web) and send GPRS ON to 333. Next, you activate your MMS (Multi-media Messaging Service—the service that let's you download photos, sound clips and videos directly to your phone) and send MMS ON to 333. Then await further instructions on your celfone. Once both GPRS and MMS have been activated, you're free to browse the entire library of FA&Q! Just key in FAQ and send to 34801 to access the latest reports for you to download. What you get in the end is a short write-up on your chosen news item, along with a photo of it for you to store on your celfone and revisit to your heart's content.

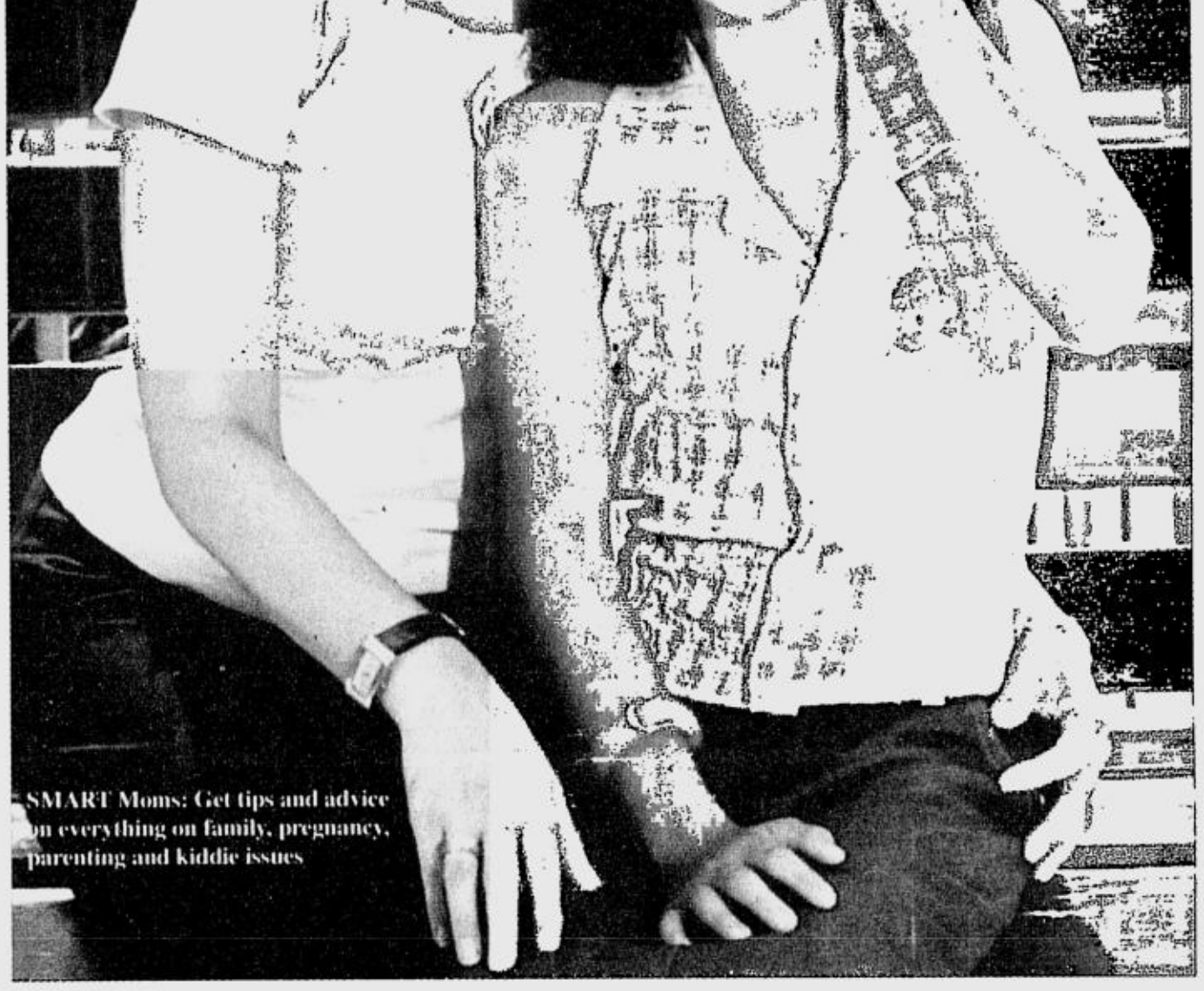
For those with discerning tastes, there's SMART Review. Every music, restaurant, movie and motoring critic in town is at your disposal by just keying in REVIEW and send to 2455 to get a wide range of review selection. So next time you need to decide how to squander your paycheck, trust Smart Review to give you sound advice on where to find the best eats, beats and treats in town

Whether you're a seasoned or a nervous first-time mother, you can now rely on your celfone for tips and advice on everything from family, pregnancy, parenting, kiddie issues and more with SMART Moms. It's the perfect thing for moms on the go. So if it's a question on what to feed your baby or how to discipline your hyper 2-year old, just key in MA and send to 353 for those valuable pointers.

Fitness buffs need not feel left out either. While not pumping iron or sweating it out at the local yoga center, they can rely on SMART Gold's new service, Health & Fitness Corner. It's health and fitness packed into your celfone. Get info on golf, badminton and basketball—including venues, schedules, contact information and tips on how to improve your game. No need to break a sweat here; just key in SPORTS and send to 225.

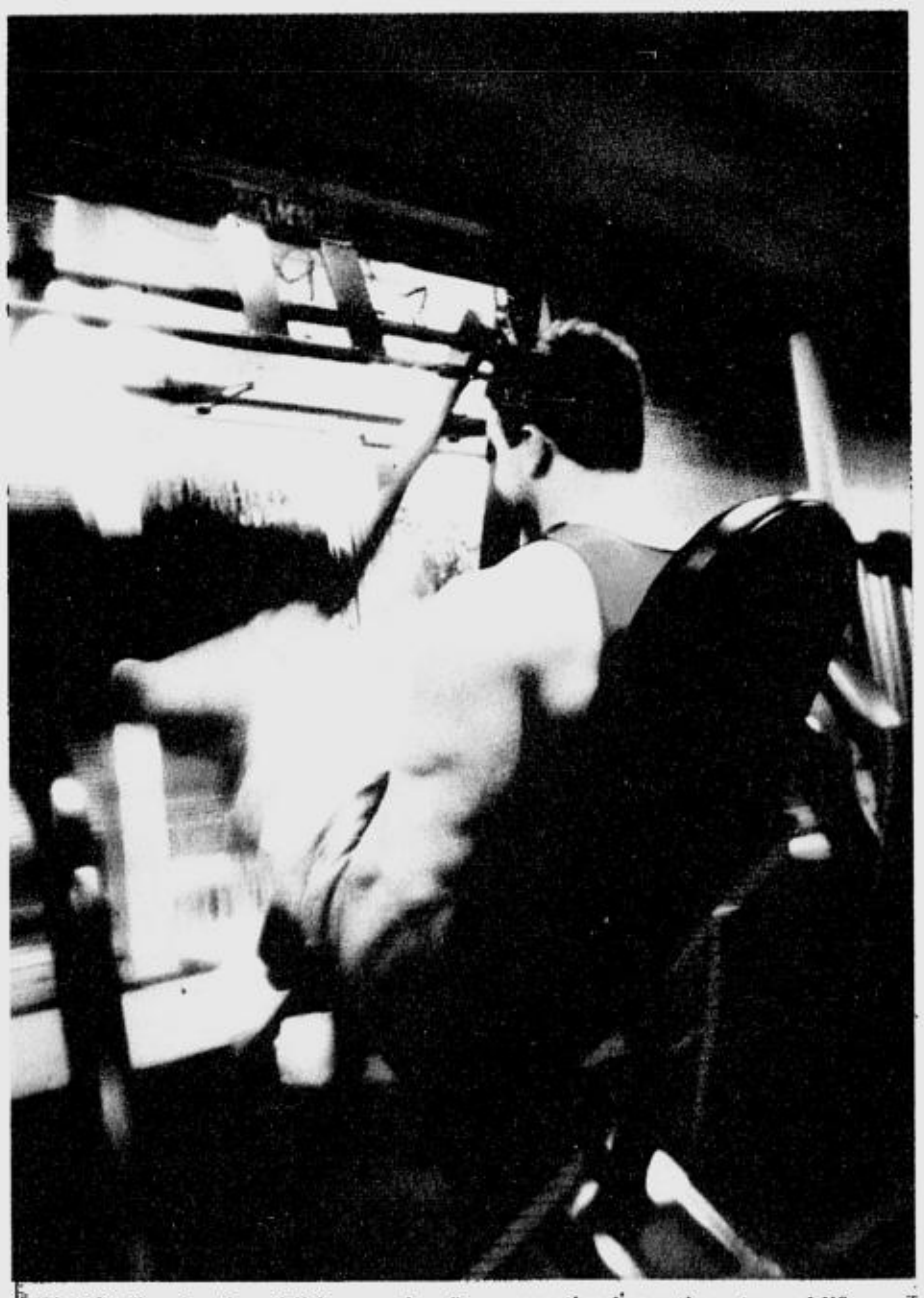
And for silver screen lovers, Hollywood is just a click away. Whether it's J. Lo or Justin Timberlake you fancy, SMART Gold hooks you up with the biggest stars pronto. Just key in HOLLYWOOD and send to 3488 to access the latest gossip, biographies, MMS images and picture messages on your favorite international stars in either the big screen or the music scene.

These new innovative services that are now available on the SMART Gold network are to be experienced for yourself. For those who are not yet on the SMART network, signing up is quick and easy. Just visit any SMART Wireless Center or SMART authorized dealer to experience the smart way to enhance your lifestyle through the convenience of your celfone.



SMART Moms: Get tips and advice on everything on family, pregnancy, parenting and kiddie issues

Health & Fitness Corner: Get the lowdown on everything health related, including info on golf, badminton and basketball plus tips on how to improve your game.



Hollywood Celebrities: Check this out for the latest gossip, biographies, MMS images and picture messages of your favorite stars in either the big screen or the music scene.

FA&Q: Fascinating tidbits ranging from creative inventions to real life adventures

ADVT

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Twists of Fate

By Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Learning to Take the Leap

Jose Casiple of Negros Occidental was a school drop-out and janitor who took pains to finish college, and eventually became a school principal. His success story is the ideal that the Education Revolution is striving for

UNTIL he retired, his father was a family driver in Talisay, Negros Occidental whose earnings could hardly support eight children. That did not stop Jose Casiple from dreaming big. "I wanted to be an engineer," he says. But poverty forced him to drop out of school twice and eventually work as a janitor.

Today, Casiple, 58, is a highly-respected school principal at the San Fernando Elementary School in Negros Occidental. He owes it all to his

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Hope Dawns For
BIOGESIC FOR KIDS'
ADOPT AN ORPHANAGE

In an era of unprecedented global wealth, millions of institutionalised children all over the world are facing a health crisis. As a result of being housed together, these children pose a special problem with regards to control and transmission of communicable but preventable diseases. Even if these children were provided with shelter, food and care, the increasing incidence of communicable diseases in this segment of population somehow translates to inadequate provision of needs.

A local study done showed a very low immunization rate among children in orphanages. Although efforts are being made to improve their immunization status, a number of factors, which prevent achievement of this goal, exist. Among those cited were, lack of immunization programs, lack of immunization records, and unavailability of vaccines.

United Laboratories Consumer Health (ULCH), makers of BIOGESIC FOR KIDS, in partnership with the Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc. and Mercury Drug, is embarking on a mission in response to the medical needs of children in Philippine orphanages. Adopt-an-Orphanage, a program that aims to provide pediatric health assessment and immunization for measles, mumps, German measles (MMR), Hepatitis B and Hemophilus influenzae B (HiB), was conceptualized. This is in support of the Department of Health Expanded Program on Immunization, which are limited to BCG, DPT, OPV and measles.

The Adopt-an-Orphanage Program also gives the consumers a chance to share in this endeavor. Effective September 2003, every purchase of BIOGESIC FOR KIDS in any Mercury Drugstore outlet corresponds to a one-peso donation to the Adopt-an-Orphanage fund.

Through the concerted effort of these organizations, it is hoped that we may help uplift the plight of these children so that someday, they may truly become the HOPE OF OUR NATION.

Tulung-tulong tayong mag-ipon ng P1 milyon para sa kanilang kalusugan.

Nakasalalay sa inyo ang mga pangangailangang pangkalusugan ng 11 bahay-ampunan.
Magtanong sa inyong pediatrician kung paano makakatulong sa Adopt-an-Orphanage Program.

ADOPT AN ORPHANAGE

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Philippine Pediatric Society, Inc.

UNILAB CONSUMER HEALTH

ADVT.

The Artist Abroad

By Luis H. Francia

Of Leaks and Men

We lull ourselves into thinking that reality TV presents us with a slice of life when the opposite is true: Reality TV distances us from reality. What we get are flickering shadows, not the countless manifestations of reality in all its awesome, disgusting, magnificent, mystifying, and astounding complexity

Gov. Schwarzenegger

NEW YORK—The scandalous reports of Kris Aquino's rocky and violence-prone affair with Joey Marquez, erstwhile basketball player and Parañaque mayor who's married to ex-*bomba* star Alma Moreno, dominated not just Manila's media but listservs I subscribe to and, I am positive, other areas of the Internet where Filipinos congregate. At the same time, US media focus on "Terminator" Arnold Schwarzenegger—who has just been elected governor of California in the recall campaign against Gray Davis—has brought to light his treatment of women. Based on past interviews and the most recent ones published in The Los Angeles Times, where six women recount unsavory encounters with Arnie, one can safely say the man clearly has a hands-on approach to the opposite sex.

The sordid details Kris revealed on television led a number of listserv members to state that they were shocked-shocked-shocked at all the media attention lavished on this privileged, rich, "spoiled" (one of the kinder epithets heaped upon her) daughter of a man who thought the Filipino was worth dying for, and a mother who just happens to be an ex-president and a conservative Catholic, to boot. (I have this theory that Kris, into whitening creams, breast enhancement, and liposuction, is the revenge of Cory's repressed alter ego, releasing all those pent-up libidinal energies that the Catholic Church has always felt hostility for.) The interview was a grisly and intimate run-through of events (That Burning Bed!) culminating in Marquez's allegedly pointing a loaded gun at her (though, as it turns out, his other pistol apparently proved to be more lethal)—the sort of tell-all that acts upon us like a gory train wreck. You view the bodies, the blood and gore, through the falsely protective screen of your fingers, simultaneously attracted and repelled. It's the kind of event that makes media moguls drool, highbrow flaneurs sneer, and the puritanical finger their rosaries. Naturally, the episode (titled "Incredible Kris" when I first read it on the Net) provoked both hilarious and excruciating jokes, one of the funniest being the supposed comment of Parañaque's citizenry: *Buti pa si Mayor may tulo. Ang mga gripo namin, wala!*

'Incredible Kris'

Those—always, one ear cocked to the putative judgements of the outside world—who felt that the televised, titillating interview and the succeeding brouhaha were a shameful reflection on our society should be consoled by the fact that media here, or, for that matter, anywhere that the free market reigns, is just as fixated on ratings and scandals. Remember the uproar a few years ago, over the Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky affair? People said then they were sick of the media frenzy at the same time that they were devouring every juicy bit. Few citizens, after all, will admit to having baser instincts, which is why gossip columnists thrive. They act as our surrogate snoops and tattletales, the sanctioned jesters and fools in the court of public life, indulged in by the powers that be as a way of confronting unpleasant truths without them having to kill the messenger. At least, that's what gossip columnists could be doing but, alas, most are content with bold-facing names and being kissy hissy with the bejeweled and perfumed set.

So Arnie, having grabbed more than his fair share of buttocks and breasts, has in turn grabbed more than his fair share of the headlines. One woman claimed, in the L.A. Times, that the former bodybuilding champion, already a movie star, tried to take off her one-piece bathing suit while they were both in the elevator. If true, he must have thought a blitzkrieg of that sort (Wham! Bang!) would be easily carried out before anyone else got on. These revelations from his past—let us call them leaks—may or may not harm him politically. And who can say how Incredible Kris will use this contretemps?

We've come to view the sexual antics of a society figure, the sordid past of an actor, or the confessions of a politician, as just so much fodder for a telenovela or sitcom, real life imitating reality TV—an oxymoron, if there ever was one. Just as we kid ourselves into believing that drinking decaffeinated brew is drinking coffee, so we lull ourselves into thinking that reality TV presents us with a slice of life, video verité right there in the living room. The opposite naturally is true: Reality TV distances us from reality. Instead, what we get are flickering shadows; all we need to do is step outside the cave and see the countless manifestations of reality in all its awesome, disgusting, magnificent, disturbing, rich, mystifying, and astounding complexity. Reality TV, tabloids, telenovelas- -they are all of a piece, bread and circus for the masses. (Well, not so much bread but certainly a lot of circus.)

And now Joey has apologized, keeping up with Arnold's own, both mindful of their public careers. The gossip mills, ever voracious, will feast on these for a while before turning elsewhere. In the meantime, for those of us who mourn the likes of a Kris/Joey or Arnie or Bill/Monica parading in the spotlight, is it not ourselves, to paraphrase Gerard Manley Hopkins, we mourn for?

Sa sobrang sarap, pagpapagaling ay walang hirap.

NEW BIOGESIC FOR KIDS.

Available in yummy orange and strawberry flavors na talagang magugustuhan ng inyong anak at siguradong tuluy-tuloy ang paggaling niya sa lagnat!

Biogesic for Kids supports:

ADOPT AN ORPHANAGE

PARACETAMOL
BIOGESIC
for kids

Ang sarap magpagaling ni Mommy!

Kate

...from page 1

Ishq at the Astoria Plaza in Ortigas Center, or making appointments to visit her penthouse atelier in Legaspi Village. She's got a backlog that stretches till about the end of November—"I have trouble saying no!" Kate whines, "though I shouldn't be complaining." Compound that with the fact that this pale, pretty wisp of a girl (she barely hits five feet and wears size 4 shoes) is also a singer, a classically trained pianist and an MBA student, and you wonder how she keeps it all together. "It's always a struggle," she says of working with both her artistic and entrepreneurial sides. "I try to compartmentalize, but often the artist in me wins out and I ask myself, 'Do I really want this?'"

Born and raised in Cebu to a lawyer mother and a businessman father, Kate was one of two siblings, although she now happily counts several half-siblings on both sides. "My brother was eight years older than me, so I was often alone with the *yaya*, and I was always into arts and crafts—beadwork, cross-stitching, Play-Doh, you name it!" She likes to blame her genes sometimes, having a great-grandmother who was a seamstress and a grandmother who owned a dress shop. As she has often said of her childhood, "I was always the most over-dressed kid in school—but I learned to like it." This was about the same time she started playing the piano and singing along with the radio, taking piano lessons and playing in a youth concert in Los Angeles when she was only 9. "After a while, though, I would see other kids playing while I was practicing and I didn't feel too good about it, so I stopped when I was in high school."

By the time she was in college and studying business at the University of the Philippines in Cebu, Kate was designing office uniforms and children's costumes that were a huge hit. She was also putting together her own outfits, "since I couldn't afford to spend too much on clothes on my allowance." At about the same time, she formed a band named Hard Candy ("after a brand of nail polish—how *kikay* can you get?") that managed to win contests and even get a single played on local radio stations. As keyboardist-cum-front woman, Kate got to indulge her penchant for dressing up. "People would come up to me and say, 'That's a really cute outfit!' and I'd go, 'Wanna order?' So it was double-purpose."

After college, Kate was briefly engaged. "I actually thought I would be a mother at 24." It didn't work out, however, and Kate found herself being offered a job on the staff of Sen. Loren Legarda, whom she met in Cebu during a youth forum. "It was tough at first, because I had always been the baby in the family, and my grandmother was worried that nobody would take care of me in the big city." She spent a year handling research and media relations. "It was tough, but it was one of those things where you don't realize how much you've learned until much later. Plus, that was after the impeachment, so it was a big deal."

Finally, Kate began "officially" designing clothes over a year ago, the same time she started business school at the Ateneo de Manila. "I didn't want to call myself a designer, because I know you have to go to school for that." In the beginning, she would literally peddle clothes to friends, carrying them around in duffel bags and presenting them from the trunk of her car. "I've always been entrepreneurial—I used to sell stickers and *yema* in grade school. Besides, it was more about learning how to survive on my own, without always depending on my parents. I'm the only one in the family who's here in Manila, so it gets a bit lonely, but I'm getting better at it." That's when she schedules visiting friends, watching other musicians play and getting her nails done, the only thing she has in terms of a beauty indulgence. "I don't even comb my hair!"

Today, Kate's clothes are still made in Cebu, and are shipped to Manila two or three times a week; her trusted workers refuse to relocate to Manila because of their families, so she's still toying with the idea of opening a workroom in the city. She scours shopping places—malls, markets here and abroad—for the fabrics that catch her eye, and she still makes only one of each piece. A trademark of sorts has become the matching bag that always comes free with each creation. "I've always been obsessive about having everything match! Some people think it's a bit much, but that's me." Recently, she held her very first "teeny-tiny trunk show" of 15 pieces at Sanctum in Intramuros, what she considers a labor of love in collaboration with her model and stylist friends. Kate was hesitant at first, and was completely bowled over when she spotted regular customer and avowed fan Gilda Cordero-Fernando in the audience. It's a testament to her lack of self-consciousness that, contrary to popular belief, this business student does not have a five-year business plan for her enterprise. She doesn't even put labels on her clothes. "Opportunities just arrive, and I'm not a fool so I just grab them. I don't seek them out. But I still get a huge kick out of finding and wearing a P100 top, and someone saying, 'Is that an Issey?' I wish!"

A couple of times a month, Kate also does gigs at "small artsy places" like Sanctum, Millennia and Pipers, jamming with other musicians or accompanying herself on the keyboard to perform "quirky" versions of songs by Pearl Jam, the Cure or Sting. Friends are urging her to make a demo for possible recording, but she's putting that off for when the schoolwork is over. Thus, a regular day would mean rising late ("I'm NOT a morning person!"), making calls from her flat, entertaining clients or making house calls for long-time customers. Her classes are from 6 to 10 in the evenings, and then there's the occasional gig after that or on weekends.

Kate's clients have gotten so comfy with her style that instructions for orders are happily vague. "Make me something sexy, or something red, they'd tell me," Kate says. "That's why it's really a collaboration." A self-confessed "girl's girl," Kate describes her style as "quirky, fun but always feminine." To the young girls who still e-mail her about their own dreams of becoming designers, Kate offers the same encouragement: "Create, create, create. Always have your own take on a fashion. And always wear your stuff. You're your own walking billboard!"

KC Concepcion poses in a poncho top for Pink Magazine, right; colorful pieces mixed and matched for a spread in Inquirer's own Saturday Special Super, below

Learning

...from page 4

determination, he says, to finish school. "Education enables a person to change for the better and improve one's station in life," he says.

Back in the '60s however, even finishing high school was a leap of faith for Casiple. He graduated from the elementary level but had to stop schooling for the next six years because he had to help out his family, he says. "I sold *puto* (rice cakes) early in the morning and *tikoy* (a sticky Chinese dessert) in the afternoon," Casiple recalls.

When his eldest brother, then working as a maintenance electrician at a doctor's hospital, refused his employer's offer for him to finish school, Casiple grabbed the chance. A few years later, he had to drop out of school once more. His elder brother had gotten married and had left his kindly doctor-employer. "I was too ashamed to ask for further support," a disappointed Casiple says.

But the dream wouldn't die, so the young man approached the school principal and offered to work for his tuition. "I was paid 30 centavos per hour," he says, "for cleaning the schoolgrounds." He also worked at a construction site but the meager salary and hard labor led him to look for a better job. He found it in a public school—as janitor.

The lowly job, an eventual marriage and having children to support did not deter him from his desire to become a professional, says Casiple. "After 10 years of quitting school, I took the National College Entrance Examination (NCEE) and passed. " That became his ticket to evening engineering classes that he attended after work.

Things were going well until school authorities transferred the evening course to daytime, when it conflicted with his job. "I had to transfer to the Negros Occidental College of Arts and Trade and had to shift to Education," Casiple says. It was in that school just a few steps from his house that he finished a degree in Industrial Education major in furniture and cabinet making. When he passed the professional board exams for teachers, he was promoted to a teaching job.

But it was not a smooth transition. "My peers underestimated and belittled me because they knew I came from the grassroots," he recounts. He decided to show them. "I enrolled for a masteral degree, completed my units and passed the comprehension exams." He was promoted as head teacher after a year but was transferred soon after to another school "that needed more teachers because of the rapid increase in enrolment."

After "suffering for nine years in that school," he was transferred to the San Fernando Elementary School where, as principal, he handles 19 teachers. "The school is located 12 kilometers away from the *poblacion* (town center). We have 544 students," he says proudly.

Casiple's success story is the ideal that people behind the Education Revolution are working at, says Butch Hernandez, executive director of the project started exactly a year ago today by the Foundation for Worldwide People Power. The Foundation is the same group behind the book "Duet for EDSA," the "*Batas Militar*" video documentary and "Pinoy Agonistes," a Nick Joaquin play set during the martial law years. The group is working to translate the 1986 People Power revolution into concrete projects that empower communities "towards genuine social and political renewal."

Says Hernandez, "We believe that education is the best weapon against poverty so we are fighting for quality education in all elementary and secondary public schools." A former activist during the martial law years, Hernandez, 48, believes in bringing people together. "Basically, we ask the community what they think they need and what they are prepared to give."

Under the Education Revolution, the private sector can either Adopt-a-School, fund teachers' seminars called Mentoring the Mentors, or join the School Empowerment program.

"Our concept of school is not an infrastructure but teachers and students in a learning environment," says Dr. Evelyn Mejillano, who coordinates the five-day mentors' seminar. Unfortunately, she adds, the situation of teachers in the country is such that most mentors suffer from low self-esteem. " *'Titser lang ako,'* is how they consider themselves when in fact, the future of the country is in their hands," says Mejillano, 66, an educator for the past 40 years." Teachers come out of the seminar with a renewed sense of purpose, a higher self-esteem and a firmer commitment to do better, she adds.

Also in demand is the School Empowerment Program where teachers learn skills in Basic Curriculum integration.

With the communities and the private sector themselves approaching them to register interest, Hernandez is confident that the Education Revolution can produce more folk like Casiple who, not surprisingly, has become an enthusiastic supporter.

"I intend to spread the word further to the pupils, teachers and parents in my school and community," says Casiple. "My dream is to increase the literacy rate among rural folk so that they too can have a better life."

For inquiries, contact the FWWPP at tel. 633-2185, telefax 631-4970 or email fwwpp@glinesnx.com.ph, or visit their website: www.fwwpp.org

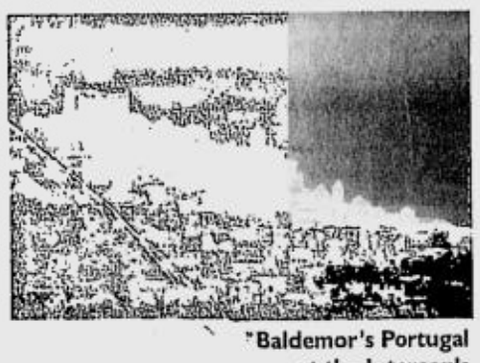
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Mentor Dr. Evelyn Mejillano and former activist Butch Hernandez of the Education Revolution

Art

Photographs, large-scale photographs by Denise Weldon depicting human figures and still lives, until Oct. 17 at Galleria Duemila, 4/L, SM Megamall A. For details, call 634-3261.

***Letras y Figuras*: Contemporary Idioms on Idea and Identity**, a group exhibit by contemporary Filipino artists including a work by the late Santiago Bose, until Oct. 25 at the Ayala Museum, G/F Old Stock Exchange Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City. For details, call 812-1191 to 95.



"Baldemor's Portugal at the Intercon's Art Café

Timeless Portugal, Manuel Baldemor's mixed media paintings of Portugal which are reflective of the moods of the land and its people, until Oct. 24 at the InterContinental Manila lobby Art Café. For inquiries, call 815-9711.

Poignant Pieces, an exhibit by graphic designer, photographer and writer Nelz Agustin, presenting 12 silver gelatin prints that evoke a sense of timelessness, nostalgia and stillness, until Oct. 24 at The Alcove Photo Gallery, Filipinas Heritage Library, Makati Avenue, Ayala Triangle, Makati City. For details, call 892-1801.

Music

The Manila Chamber Orchestra presents the **MCO Arts Festival 2003** featuring Vienna-based pianist Aries Caces in a special concert on Oct. 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank, Tower 1, Makati Avenue cor. H.V. dela Costa St., Makati City. Caces will perform pieces by Beethoven, Schubert, Mendelssohn and Liszt. For inquiries, call 818-1403 or 840-7000 loc. 2630.

Verbena: Street Party. A magical night of Latin music and flamenco dance takes place on Oct. 18 at the Puerto Real Gardens in Intramuros. Several Spanish restaurants will offer their exquisite Spanish dishes to partygoers. This is in celebration of "Fiesta!," the Spanish month-long festival for culture and arts.

Despair. A romantic night of poetry and guitar sets the mood on Oct. 13, 7:30 p.m. at the RCBC Plaza as a tribute to the 100th birth anniversary of Chilean love poet Pablo Neruda. His select poems in Spanish, English and Filipino versions will be read by Chin-Chin Gutierrez and National Artist for Literature Alejandro Roces. Spanish guitarist Jorge Orozco will also perform in the event. Admission is free.

Realizing Rama, a full-length contemporary dance adaptation of the Asian epic "Ramayana," returns to the stage on Oct. 14 at the CCP Tanghalang Nicanor Abelardo at 8 p.m. For tickets, call CCP Marketing at 832-3878.

From Oct. 17-25, the New Voice Company will stage the drama/comedy play **Stop Kiss** by Diana Son. The play revolves around two women who meet, talk about their boyfriends, feel a growing, unspoken attraction for each other, and finally kiss. The play is directed by Monique Wilson and features Jenny Jamora, Missy Maramara, Rito Asilo, Jamie Wilson, Rabbi Gannaban and Tami Monsod. Friday and Saturday shows at 8 p.m. with Saturday matinees at 3:30 p.m. at the new Republic of Malate Theater. For tickets, call 896-6695 or 899-0630.

Dayon!, a showcase of university and community theaters from Western Visayas, will be presented at the CCP. On Oct. 16, 8 p.m. at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino, the productions "*Karul-An*" and "*Balasyon*" will be presented back to back by the University of Negros Occidental Recoletos Kasadyahan Dance Theater and the University of San Agustin Performing Arts. On Oct. 17, "Juanita Cruz," the story of a provincial lass who reunites with a long-lost love in Spanish era Manila, will be staged at 8 p.m. also at the Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino. On Oct. 17 at 3 p.m., "Late Journey Home," which examines the life choice of bourgeois intellectuals, will be performed by the Maskara Theater Ensemble back to back with the social drama, "*Igun Itom*." For tickets, call 551-7930 and 832-3878.

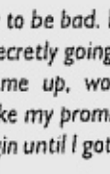
"Juanita Cruz" goes onstage in "*Dayon!*" at the CCP

The Philippine Educational Theater Association presents **Hans Christian Andersen Must be Filipino** at the SM Megamall Cinema 4 on Oct. 20-25, and at the SM City Bacoor Cinema 6 on Nov. 11-14, 18-21 with performances at 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on all dates. For inquiries, call 410-0822 or 724-9637.

Onstage

Seven Love Poems and Several Songs of

By Joe D' Mango



Is It Too Late to Start Over?

Now I'm HIV positive. And all I ever wanted was to be loved

Dear Joe,

This is the first time that I'm really facing what I've been scared of all my life: my heart. My story is like Cinderella's except it has a different ending. I was abandoned at birth by my father, maltreated by my own mother and siblings, and found only cruel classmates and friends who took advantage of me. But I do have a loving and caring stepfather.

I love my mother even if she didn't love me back, and I prayed that she would hug and kiss me for all the good things I've done. But I just got so tired. Until now, she never treats me as a daughter. I wished I was never born and that I can close my eyes at night and not wake up. I wanted attention. I wanted to feel important.

I was in college when I finally learned how to be bad. It started with drinking and smoking and went on to secretly going to clubs and bars. My grandmother, who brought me up, would have freaked out. I went out of control, Joe. I broke my promise to my grandmother that I would stay pure and a virgin until I got married. Now she's gone and I hate myself.

It happened on October 15, 2001 when I met this good-looking 25-year-old Fil-American disc jockey because of a free premiere night ticket. I didn't know what got into me but it just happened. He was so nice and sweet that night. We lasted six months, with him texting me whenever he wanted sex, and I would come running. The feeling was strange, scary and exciting, and I felt alive. I thought he was the one, until I heard him say goodbye on-air because he was quitting his job to go back to LA and marry his girlfriend. And I thought he loved me. Suddenly, my world was sucked into a black hole. It felt empty, dark and abandoned.

Joe, I hated myself. But when I was just about to give up, Leslie came into my life and helped me make it through. I found a new man and the whole feeling of excitement came back. But like the first guy, he also broke my heart. I have been with eight different men in the last two years. And I still haven't found what I have been looking for—love.

One of the guys I went out with left me with something else. I am HIV positive. Joe, I cannot understand why God allowed this to happen to me. All I ever wanted was to be loved. Now, I'm starting over, something that I should have done a long time ago. Now I realize that I can never find love unless I start loving myself. I've learned my lesson. It's late but it's okay, right? I tried to look for love in other people but I never knew that love has to start with me. Joe, I'm starting a new life. And when I find love again I know that it'll be better. I know there is still hope.

Thess

Dear Thess,

Thank you for being brave enough to share the story of the life you've had in your search for love. It is a sad fact that many young people share your sentiments about their parents. Children who feel neglected and unloved search everywhere to find a place where they will be appreciated and accepted. This is a basic human need that many of us take for granted. Many of us are busy doing our own thing and fail to see that everyday, there are people trying to reach out to us.

Thess, I know you wanted nothing but love from the men you were with. They probably made you believe that they were giving you what you've always longed for when they were, in fact, just using you.

Thess, there are times when we blame God for our misfortunes when they are of our own doing. God gave us the freedom to do as we wish. But he also gave us the responsibility for whatever our actions may bring. God may allow us to fall and suffer, but he would never abandon us when we fail.

You are starting a new life and that new life is a gift from God. Many of us take each day for granted, but for those whose days are numbered, every morning brings new hope and a new beginning. Thank you, Thess, for being strong for those who have given up. Let each morning be a day of blessing and gratitude. The end is just the beginning for those who believe and put their trust in the Lord.

By Jess Abrera

Lanzones

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Atbp

Ricco-Renzo Galleries (G/F, LRI Business Plaza, 210 N. Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati City) will hold the following workshops: **Art Workshop**. Learn the basics of watercolor, oil, pastel and acrylic on Oct. 13-31 (TTh, 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.); Floral Artistry Workshop. Learn the basics of floral arrangement for different occasions. Oct. 13-31 (MWF, 2-5 p.m.); Gold Leafing Workshop. Learn the ancient and magical art of gilding for art and decoration, Oct. 13-31 (TTh, 2-5 p.m.). For inquiries, call 898-2542 to 43.

The Cultural Center of the Philippines presents the **Hands-On Choral workshop** on Oct. 20-24, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at different venues of the CCP to be conducted by National Artist for Music Andrea Veneracion and her team from the world-renowned Philippine Madrigal Singers. The workshop includes sessions on vocalization techniques, sectional rehearsals, note reading, choral conducting, learning of new repertoire and plenary sessions with all the participating choirs. For details, call the CCP Music Division at tel. no. 832-1125 local 1604-1605.

Jenny Jamora and Missy Maramara in NVC's "Stop Kiss"

The Institute for Studies in Asian Church and Culture (ISACC) is sponsoring a **public lecture by Professor Andrew F. Walls** on the topic "The Gospel and Culture: Some Historical Lessons and Implications to Today's Global Witness" on Oct. 17 at the Christ's Commission Fellowship, St. Francis Square, Mandaluyong City, from 6 to 9 p.m. Professor Walls is a revered historian and eminent missiologist from the Centre for the Study of Christianity in the Non-Western World, University of Edinburgh, Scotland. For details, call ISACC at 922-9420 or 921-4523.

The University of Asia and the Pacific School of Management's Continuing Management Education unit offers the following seminars: **Finance for Non-Finance Managers** (Oct. 15-17) and **Brand Management: Your Next Competitive Advantage** (Oct. 28-29). The UA&P SMN CME unit also conducts exclusive in-house training programs to companies who want to improve their operations and productivity through the professional development of their employees. For details, call 637-0912 ext. 241, 634-2834 or e-mail cme@uap.edu.ph.

Style Statements of Jean Pierre Couture, a mini presentation of Jean-Pierre Gallo Pardo's latest creations, Oct. 17, 4 p.m. at Captain Edwin Nadurata's residence in Alabang Hills Village, Alabang, Muntinlupa. For inquiries, call 715-9929.

The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will hold a **Basic Photography** (Oct. 19, 26, Nov. 2 and 9) and **Advanced Photography workshops** (Oct. 18, 25, Nov. 1 and 8) at Ysla's Restaurant inside Fort Santiago in Intramuros. For inquiries, call 813-7420 and 843-5341.

The Center for Health and Creative Arts offers **Meditation for Beginners**, an introductory workshop on the universal spiritual practice of quieting the mind and tuning in to stillness to achieve relaxation, mental clarity, centering and self-awareness. Workshop will be held on Oct. 20, 22 and 24, 6-8 p.m. at the PhilDHRRA Partnership Center, Loyola Heights, QC. For details, call 434-5381 or 0919-740 5791.

Photoworks, a six-day photography workshop, will be held every Thursday and Tuesday, 7-10 p.m. starting Oct. 23. Contact Leo at leocast@yahoo.com or 0917-9580818 for more details.

The Concepcion R. Gonzalez Livelihood Center of the Girl Scouts of the Philippines in Novaliches, Quezon City is holding **livelihood courses** every Saturday from 1-5 p.m. Courses offered from October to December are candle-making, basic and advanced baking, flower-making (air-dry clay), egg decor-making, balloon-making, Christmas decors, meat processing and reflexology. For inquiries, call Malou Pales and Lala Claveria at 936-1754 and 936-1756.

Prof. Richard C. Signey will deliver a talk on **Pnoyspik in English—Language & Nationalism** before the Rotary Club of Makati Southwest on Oct. 15 at the Mandarin Hotel.

X-manila

The Philippine Vipassana Meditation Society will hold the **3rd Vipassana Meditation Course** on Oct. 15-26 at the Sico Farm in Dasmariñas, Cavite. Vipassana, which means, "to see things as they really are," is one of India's ancient meditation techniques. To find out more about the course, visit www.dhamma.org or contact Sr. Angelita Walker (email: angelrscj@yahoo.com, mobile: 0920-553 0602).

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MILF replaces Murad as chief peace negotiator

Story on PAGE A2

Boy, 7, with rare illness needs help

By Cathy Babao Guballa
Contributor

SEVEN-YEAR-OLD Kenneth Villa must be living proof of the Bible passage that to enter heaven one must have the faith of a little child. Like any kid his age, young Kenneth likes to play board games, devours science fiction books, and adores Jackie Chan, Jet Li and Mel Gibson.

BOY/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Al-Ghozi reported dead

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Fugitive Indonesian bomb expert Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi is dead, according to military authorities. Maj. Gen. Generoso Senga told the INQUIRER he had received information Al-Ghozi was killed in a joint PNP-AFP operation in Pigkawayan, North Cotabato at about 9:30 last night. "I am not yet so sure, *pero parang patay na nga*, we just have to wait for the official announcement from PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane tomorrow," Senga said.
Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindandao Bureau

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph | Monday, October 13, 2003 ★★★ 76 pages / 7 sections / vol. 18 / no. 307 P15 | website: www.inq7.net

Ping must present hard proof–Joker

Draft ruling recognizes Iggy's right to privacy

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE HEAD of the joint Senate committee which is conducting an inquiry into the allegations of corruption against First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo has ruled that his younger brother, Ignacio Arroyo, cannot be compelled to reveal in future hearings anything about his bank accounts under the name of Jose Pidal.

In a 16-page draft ruling, Sen. Joker Arroyo, chair of the blue ribbon committee that is leading the inquiry, said the brother-in-law of President Macapagal-Arroyo could invoke his right to privacy in refusing to answer questions about the Jose Pidal accounts.

Members of the joint Senate committee are expected to vote soon on the ruling crafted by Senator Arroyo.

"It is well-settled jurisprudence that our law recognizes the constitutional right to privacy," he said in his draft ruling.

The chair of the blue ribbon committee said Lacson has so far not shown that the Jose Pidal bank accounts, which he claimed were owned by the First Gentleman, contained "public funds, or at bottom, were illegally sourced to qualify it as a public matter and a fit subject of legislative inquiry."

"In the absence of a showing that the pseudonymous Jose Pidal account is illegal per se or illegally funded, or that it is impressed with a public character, Ignacio Arroyo cannot be compelled to reveal anything more about the bank account under the fictitious name of Jose Pidal that he claims to be his, without infringing on his right to privacy," Senator Arroyo said.

"Wherefore, until such time that evi-

PING/ A4

A YEAR after, people still mourn the loss of their loved ones in the terrorist bombings in Bali. AFP

BALI BOMBINGS REMEMBERED

'If we live as victims, then the terrorists have beaten us'

BALI, Indonesia—Heads bowed and weeping, more than 2,000 people yesterday gathered in a hilltop amphitheater to celebrate the lives of those killed in last year's Bali bombings and condemn the terrorists responsible for the attack.

Most were either Australian relatives of those who died or survivors of the Oct. 12, 2002 blasts that killed 202 people, mainly foreign tourists dancing and drinking in two packed clubs on the Indonesian island.

REPRESENTATIVES of 22 nations which lost citizens to the attacks light candles at the pool of remembrance during the commemoration ceremony on Jimbaran Hill near Kuta, Bali. EPA

The attack, the bloodiest since the Sept. 11, 2001 strikes against the United States, has been blamed on the Jemaah Islamiyah, a regional terror group with links to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida.

Australian military chaplain Richard Thompson gently urged families to try to accept their suffering.

"If we live as victims, the terrorists have beaten us and we are in danger then of spending our future living in anger and frustration. Such a life lived in anger and frustration does not honor the memory of our loved ones," Thompson said.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard attended the early morning service, which featured Christian hymns sung by Australian and Indonesian schoolchildren, popular songs and Hindu and Islamic elements. The names of the dead were read out.

"Yours is a loss that can never be recovered," Howard told the families of the victims. "We haven't forgotten you, we never will. Australia will never forget Oct. 12, 2002."

Representatives of the 22 nations which lost citizens in

IF WE LIVE/ A21

Militants ready US flags for fiery offering

By Norman Bordadora, Christine O. Avendaño and Carlito Pablo

IF BURNING Bush effigies fails to put the message across, there's still the fake flags.

Starting at 6 p.m. Friday, the eve of US President George W. Bush's visit to Manila, demonstrators will burn one American flag every hour in widespread protest actions. And while the VIP guest addresses Congress on Saturday, 100 American flags will be burned at a single strategic point along nearby Commonwealth Avenue.

MILITANTS/ A21

Lacson says he'll brave arrest for last exposé

AFTER suffering "one hell of a week" in the hands of Malacañang, it will be the turn of Sen. Panfilo Lacson to raise hell on the Palace when he finally delivers his last exposé on the alleged money laundering activities of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo.

Lacson said in a statement yesterday that he would finally deliver today Chapter Three of his exposé against Arroyo.

In his speech, the senator is expected to make good his threat to implicate President Macapagal-Arroyo in the alleged corrupt activities of her spouse.

Lacson said last week that he would show that the President was not only involved in the activities of Jose Pidal, but had also misused public funds.

In two privilege speeches in August and September, the opposition senator accused the First Gentleman of keeping secret bank accounts containing P260 million in campaign contributions to his wife in 1998.

The lawyer of the First Gentleman said the Arroyo camp was ready for "more manufactured evidence from Lacson."

"We have been urging him (Lacson) since his return from his mysterious journey abroad to present his case with solid and irrefutable evidence absent the parliamentary immunity he enjoys," Jesus Santos said. "Until now, he has chosen not to do so."

Santos said Lacson has been exposed as having fabricated evidence, particularly the check from the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office that was allegedly deposited in a Jose Pidal account, and statements from foreign banks.

LACSON/ A9

Third force movement doomed to fail

By Amando Doronila

THE EMERGENCE of a "third force" in the 2004 presidential election indulges wishful thinking as the tectonic plates of political alignments draw a mosaic of a face-off between an administration coalition and an opposition alliance.

The breakaway of the minuscule Reporma party from the People Power Coalition is not an earth-shaking convulsion that could herald the birth of a third force but is a case of a mountain trembling only to produce a mouse.

ANALYSIS

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who has resigned as president of the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats, is touted as the centerpiece of a coalition of breakaway parties or individuals. Reporma, led by a former ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, Renato de Villa, has as much weight as a third force coalition partner as Raul Roco's Aksyon Demokratiko.

The presidential aspirations of Roco need a rocket-propelling boost to take off, and neither he nor Guingona promises to serve as the nucleus of such a third force. On the contrary, both face

THIRD/ A19

Probers clear Ebdane in Crame shooting

By Christian V. Esguerra

CALL him Teflon Jun.

Police investigators have cleared Philippine National Police Director General Hermogenes "Jun" Ebdane Jr. of any responsibility in the bloody escape attempt of an Abu Sayyaf inmate who killed three policemen and wounded three others before being shot dead in Camp Crame Tuesday last week.

On top of clearing Ebdane, PNP investigators merely underscored the "administrative liability" of two lower-ranking officials.

In its report, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group said Senior Supt. Rosueto Ricaforte and Senior Insp. Arnold Palomo were "liable for less grave misconduct and administrative offense."

Ricaforte had been sacked as chief of the CIDG Office of Businessmen's Concerns (OBC) from whose building Buyungan Bungkak tried to escape. Palomo was the duty officer at the time.

CIDG chief Director Eduardo Matillano, forced to go on leave after the incident, is set to return to his post today.

A ranking CIDG official, who requested anonymity, said Palomo should have also been charged with abandonment of his post because he was supposedly not around during the shooting.

"As duty officer," the official told the INQUIRER, "he could not leave the building until the end of his shift."

CIDG probers also uncovered a new twist in the escape attempt that was far more disturbing than what the PNP leadership had initially tried to project.

Contrary to previous PNP pronouncements, there were actually four Abu Sayyaf inmates, not only Bungkak, who were "released" at around 6 a.m. that Tuesday.

Bas Ismael, the fifth Abu Sayyaf suspect arrested by the CIDG in connection with last year's Zamboanga City bombings, was left in their cell.

Abdul Jamin Assanul and Madzul

PROBERS/ A8

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Second FRONTPAGE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2003

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: ARMIN ADINA, PDI RESEARCH/10/13/03

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with rains
Baguio	Partly cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with rains
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with rains
Laoag	Partly cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with rains
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rains
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rains
Calapan	Cloudy with rains	Davao	Cloudy with rains

MILF replaces chief negotiator

By Edwin O. Fernandez and Rosa-May V. de Guzman
PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY—The Central Committee of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) has replaced Ebrahim Murad as chief negotiator in the upcoming peace talks with the government, the spokesperson of the Muslim separatist group said yesterday.

Eid Kabalu said the MILF Central Committee has chosen Aleem Abdulaziz Mimbantas as new chair of the MILF negotiating team for the peace talks which are slated to formally resume later this month in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Kabalu said the decision to replace Murad was made due largely to his more demanding task as the new chair of the secessionist group.

Murad, the group's former military chief, took over the MILF leadership from Salamat Hashim who died in July.

"He is now holding a very sensitive post with great responsibility, which is why the central committee, the front's decision-making body, has decided to replace (him) as panel chair," Kabalu said.

The government, for its part, has also replaced its chief negotiator in the talks with the MILF.

Secretary Silvestre Afable, head of the Presidential Management Staff, took over from Eduardo Ermita who was recently appointed defense secretary by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

But Ermita has said he had yet to be formally notified of his replacement.

"In the meantime, I am still the government chief negotiator," he told Radio dxMS in Cotabato City.

Ermita said Malaysia might finally come up with the schedule for the much-anticipated formal peace talks between the government and the MILF after the meeting of the 56-member Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) on Oct. 18.

Ermita said Friday he sees the peace talks resuming before the end of the month.

He said Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad has been very busy preparing for the eight-day summit, the main reason the schedule for the peace talks had not been set.

Ermita said there was no reason for the talks to be scrapped in light of recent developments that make the atmosphere for negotiations favorable.

"The ceasefire is holding. We are happy that since July 19 when both parties declared a ceasefire, there have been no major untoward incidents," he said.

The resumption of the peace talks was stalled in February when the military launched a campaign against criminals and their alleged MILF protectors.

Lakas sacks Cojuangco supporter

IN AN apparent warning to recalcitrant party members, the ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats stripped Rep. Jacinto Paras of his position as Lakas party president for Negros Oriental.

Paras' ouster stemmed from his open support for the prospective presidential bid of businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. or actor Fernando Poe Jr., if the former opts not to run and endorses the latter.

The Lakas-CMD has declared President Macapagal-Arroyo its standard-bearer in the 2004 elections.

A Lakas insider said Paras was replaced by Rep. Herminio Teves of the third district of Negros Oriental.

Paras, however, remained defiant, saying: "It doesn't really matter. For one, Teves himself is for Danding. What matters is that I've committed to Danding."

Lakas spokesperson Heherson Alvarez is expected to formally announce soon the change in party leadership in Negros Oriental.

When sought for confirmation, Lakas executive director Jose Ma. Rufino said: "Teves is the new Lakas provincial president for Negros Oriental." Rufino, however, clarified that Paras has not been expelled from Lakas.

Rufino also belied Paras' claim about Teves' loyalty, saying the latter had reaffirmed his support for Ms Macapagal when she announced her intention to run in 2004.

Paras claimed that up to 50 Lakas congressmen had committed themselves to support, Cojuangco, chair and CEO of food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp.

Paras said this group has decided to stick it' out with Cojuangco even if Ms Macapagal runs for President.

In Bacolod City, Cojuangco's nephew, Tarlac Rep. Gilbert Teodoro, said yesterday the businessman has not closed the door to running for president in 2004, but it was unlikely the announcement would be made by Oct. 15. *Carlito Pablo, with Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Coco oil execs sued over fund diversion

A TOP executive of the Coconut Industry Investment Fund (CIIF) oil mills has charged company officials closely linked to businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco with diverting to other use P675 million of the sequestered oil mills' funds through spurious copra purchases.

The case was filed with the Ombudsman on Sept. 23 by Reynaldo Felipe Blas, treasurer and chief finance officer of Legaspi Oil Co., Inc., Granexport Manufacturing Corp. and Cagayan de Oro Oil Co., collectively known as the CIIF oil mills.

In his affidavit, Blas claimed that in 1999, top CIIF officials—chair Geronimo Kilayko, chief operating officer Leonilo P. Yu and director Virgilio S. Jacinto—entered into copra purchase agreements totaling P675 million with copra-buying agents handpicked by Kilayko.

However, "not a single copra delivery was made four years after the deals were made," according to Blas.

He said that even though the money was eventually paid back between December 1999 and August 2002, the "fraudulent diversion" of the funds deprived the CIIF oil mills of the use of their money, forcing them to borrow funds elsewhere and incur interest payments of P59.256 million.

Blas said he filed the case because CIIF funds should be treated as public funds under Executive Order No. 277.

He claimed he was present at the meetings where Kilayko, who was then chair of United Coconut Planters Bank (UCPB), and the others hatched the plan to allegedly siphon off the oil mills' funds in the form of loans and cash advances to the copra dealers to "lend a veneer of legitimacy to their undertaking."

He said the plan was implemented without the mandatory board approval and credit check on the copra agents. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Anti-terror force to remain even after Bush visit

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG yesterday said the newly formed anti-terror task force would continue its work even after the state visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18.

In a statement, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye said the Task Force for the Security of Critical Infrastructures was an "ongoing" concern that was formed in line with the President's 16-point counterterrorism program.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced Saturday the creation of the task force to secure the country's vital infrastructure, installations and public places from terrorist attacks.

Ms Macapagal revealed the creation of the task force after Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill warned that the Philippines faced the "greatest threat" of a terrorist attack in the region from the Jemaah Islamiyah because of its many potential "soft targets" such as Western-style clubs, discos, hotels, multi-national businesses and fastfood outlets.

But Bunye clarified that the task force's formation was not connected to Bush's visit and it was purely coincidental that its formation was announced a week before the state visit of the world's most powerful leader.

"The task force will go on with its job even after Bush has left," Bunye said.

Bunye said the task force, which would report to the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security, will finalize its work plan this week.

The task force, led by Presidential Adviser for Special Concerns Undersecretary Abraham Purugganan, was formed to implement comprehensive and integrated security measures for the country's critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks and serve as coordinator for joint government and private sector activities.

Among the critical infrastructure that the task force will secure are power plants, power transmission and distribution facilities, communications facilities, oil and gas depots, key public work infrastructure, certain public and private buildings, and facilities in the nerve centers of commerce and industry.

On the threat of the Abu Sayyaf to stage more attacks during Bush's visit, Bunye said the police and military are gearing up for any eventuality and have identified potential targets where security has been beefed up.

President Bush and the US First Lady, Laura Bush, are expected to arrive on Saturday on board Air Force One at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Several radical groups, including the Abu Sayyaf, have vowed to disrupt the peace during the visit.

Meanwhile, the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) has extended the security alert status at all of its installations in Mindanao until after the visit of Bush. *With PDI Mindanao Bureau*

More firms closed in last 3 years–DOLE

MORE COMPANIES have ceased operations in the last three years, rendering thousands of workers unemployed, government data showed.

Statistics from the Department of Labor and Employment showed that the number of firms that closed rose by 27 percent from only 2,258 firms in 2000 to 2,859 in 2001.

In 2002, the number of shuttered firms went up further by 15 percent to 3,296.

DOLE statistics also showed that the number of laid-off workers as a result of the closures increased by six percent from 67,624 in 2000 to 71,864 in 2001.

The number rose by 8.5 percent to 77,601 in 2002.

Figures for this year were not available but militant labor unions like the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino have expressed fears of an upsurge in firm closures, particularly in the garments and textile industry.

BMP noted that based on its initial list, more than 3,000 workers lost their jobs in September when some firms, including the large Novelty Philippines Inc., maker of Baby Togs, decided to close shop.

On Oct. 13, thousands of workers from about 100 unions in Manila, Central Luzon and Southern Tagalog will hold a work stoppage to protest the layoff of NPI workers.

The closure of NPI, the group said, was an apparent case of "runaway shop" as the firm's management plans to continue garments production through other firms. *Martin P. Marfil*

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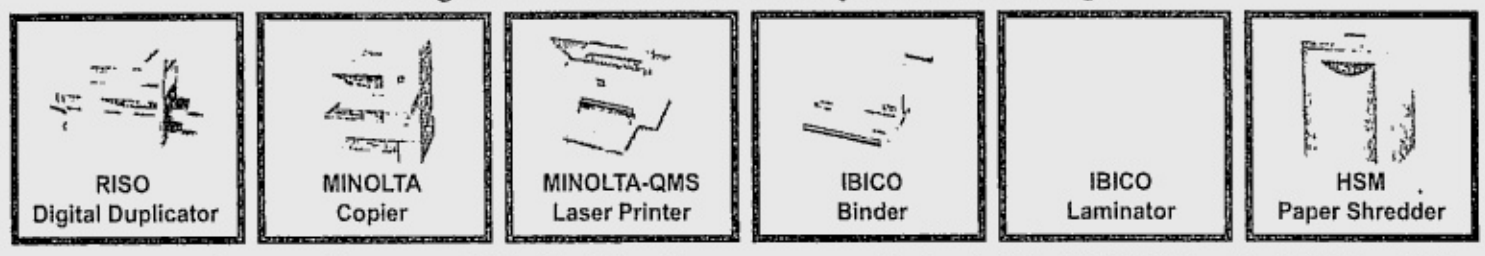

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Ping must present ...

From page A1

dence, independent of that sought to be extracted from (Ignacio Arroyo), is presented showing that the Jose Pidal account is a matter of public interest, the right to privacy invoked by Ignacio Arroyo must be respected at this stage," the chair of the blue ribbon committee said.

In two privilege speeches in August and September, Lacson accused the First Gentleman of keeping secret bank accounts containing P260 million in laundered money from campaign contributions to his wife in 1998. Among the dummy bank accounts that the First Gentleman allegedly kept were those under the name of Jose Pidal.

The First Gentleman denied Lacson's allegations and his brother, Ignacio, later claimed that he owned the Jose Pidal accounts.

But Ignacio refused to answer questions at a joint Senate committee inquiry because he said he was a private citizen and his funds in the bank accounts were private in nature.

Public interest

Opposition senators claimed that Ignacio could not invoke the right to privacy because he waived such right when he came out in public to claim ownership of the Jose Pidal accounts. They also said that the Jose Pidal controversy was a matter of public interest.

Just because something has become the object of intense public curiosity does not mean that it has become a matter of real public interest, according to Senator Arroyo.

"Curiosity and interest are not the same," he said. "And the intense public curiosity that has been aroused by this investigation into Ignacio Arroyo and his claim to be the owner of the Jose Pidal account will not strip him of his right to privacy absent proof of grave wrongdoing."

Senator Arroyo said Ignacio did not waive his right to privacy when he voluntarily appeared before the Senate hearing.

"This ruling does not leave Congress powerless to press inquiries on matters of real public interest," he said. "But it does assume that Congress will proceed only when it has a shred of real evidence to go on so as to weave a larger canvas on which to paint the whole truth and nothing but."

Great white shark

"To put it in plainer terms, the rationale behind discouraging fishing expeditions is that an accuser may not trawl the oceans to feed the idle curiosity of the public on the shore upon an unsubstantiated claim that there is a great white shark out there that poses a clear and present danger to the public on dry land," the chair of the blue ribbon committee said.

He said the senators were awaiting Lacson to present his evidence "of illegal and not merely improper, of criminal and not merely salacious conduct that can be traced to the First Gentleman."

Lacson is "duty-bound" to make good his allegations, "otherwise, he would trivialize the parliamentary immunity that attaches to privilege speeches," Senator Arroyo said.

He noted that after two hearings by the blue ribbon committee and the committees on constitutional amendments and on banks, Lacson had yet to share with his colleagues his "proofs," "documented findings" and the "voluminous documents and written testimonies of witnesses."

Senator Arroyo said the burden of supplying the evidence did not fall on Jose Miguel and Ignacio Arroyo.

Perjury

Congress has the "extraordinary" privilege of delivering privilege speeches with immunity from suit and to have them investigated. Witnesses, on the other hand, opened themselves up to the charge of perjury if they gave false testimony, Senator Arroyo said.

"In such an even and lopsided situation, the constitutional injunction to protect the rights of witnesses in the institutionalized practice and the conduct of legislative investigations comes into play, as well as it should," he said.

"For in these proceedings, the accused is put in jeopardy, of perjury and contempt."

Congress, according to the senator, has the duty to conduct inquiries in aid of legislation as well as to uphold the Constitution and the constitutionally protected rights.

"To either undertaking—inquiries in aid of legislation and defending constitutional rights—it must give equal zeal and circumspection," he said.

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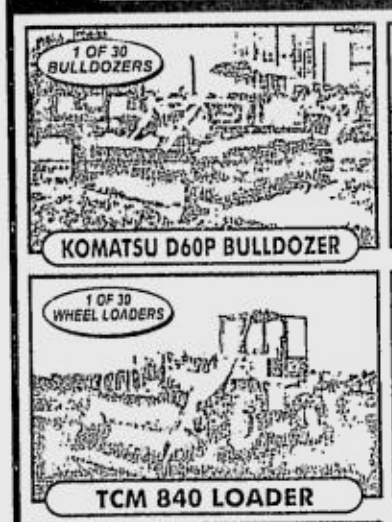
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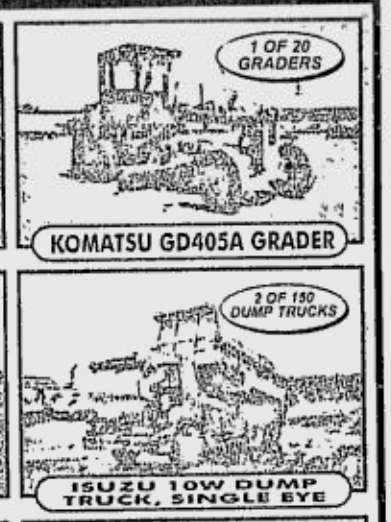
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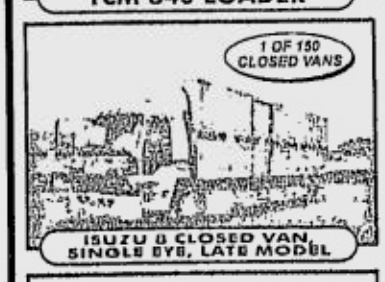
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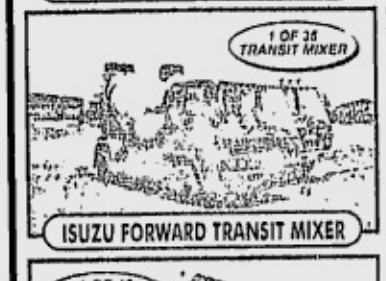
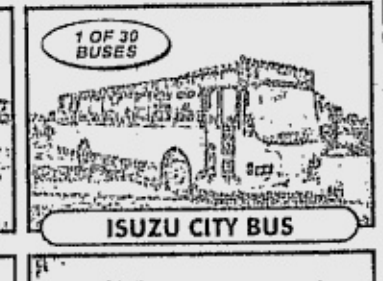

1 OF 150 CLOSED VANS — ISUZU 6 CLOSED VAN, SINGLE EYE, LATE MODEL


1 OF 100 DROPSIDE CARGOS — ISUZU 10W DROPSIDE CARGO

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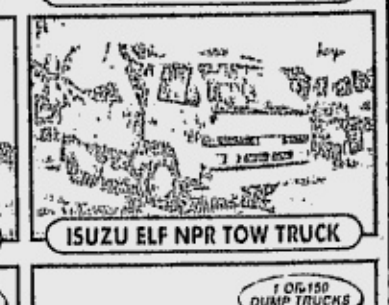
1 OF 30 BUSES — ISUZU CITY BUS

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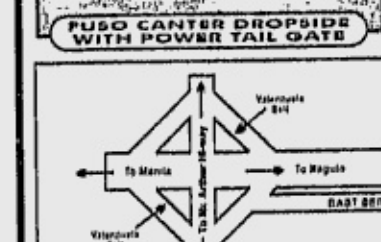
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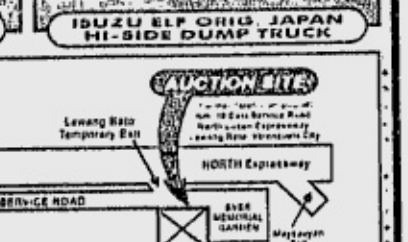
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RP raps Aussie import rules

THE GOVERNMENT is protesting new restrictions imposed by Australia on Philippine agricultural products, Agriculture Secretary Luis P. Lorenzo Jr. said yesterday.

Lorenzo said the government, through the Department of Agriculture, has instructed its lawyers in Geneva, Switzerland, to evaluate what action to take in view of the apparent violation by Australia of international trade rules and regulations set by the World Trade Organization.

"We have asked our lawyers in Geneva [where WTO headquarters is located] to verify if any official documents relating to the matter have been received by our foreign post there," Lorenzo said.

Australia has reportedly subjected Philippine produce to stricter inspection procedures and raised inspection fees by about 25 percent after allegedly finding giant African snails in container vans carrying agricultural products from Philippine ports outside of Manila.

But, Lorenzo said, the Philippine government has not received any communication from the Australian government on the alleged incident.

"I find this deplorable, especially since the incident supposedly happened as early as July. We should be allowed an opportunity to investigate this incident and find out if this is true," Lorenzo said.

Lorenzo told reporters the Philippine government would elevate the matter to the Sanitary and Phytosanitary Committee of the WTO.

The DA is raising the issue with the WTO after local shippers informed the department they were no longer accepting shipments of agricultural exports to Australia from ports outside Manila.

The DA described the Australian import restrictions as "discriminatory."

"In view of the strict import restrictions and high inspection fees, shippers have opted to stop taking shipments to Australia of Philippine agricultural products emanating from ports in General Santos City, Davao, Cebu, Cagayan de Oro and Subic," said Lorenzo.

Lorenzo said he found it significant that the Australian action against RP agricultural exports came after the Philippines sided with a group of 21 developing nations at the WTO meeting in Cancun to oppose the "discriminatory and unfair" practices of developed countries. *Norman Bordadora*

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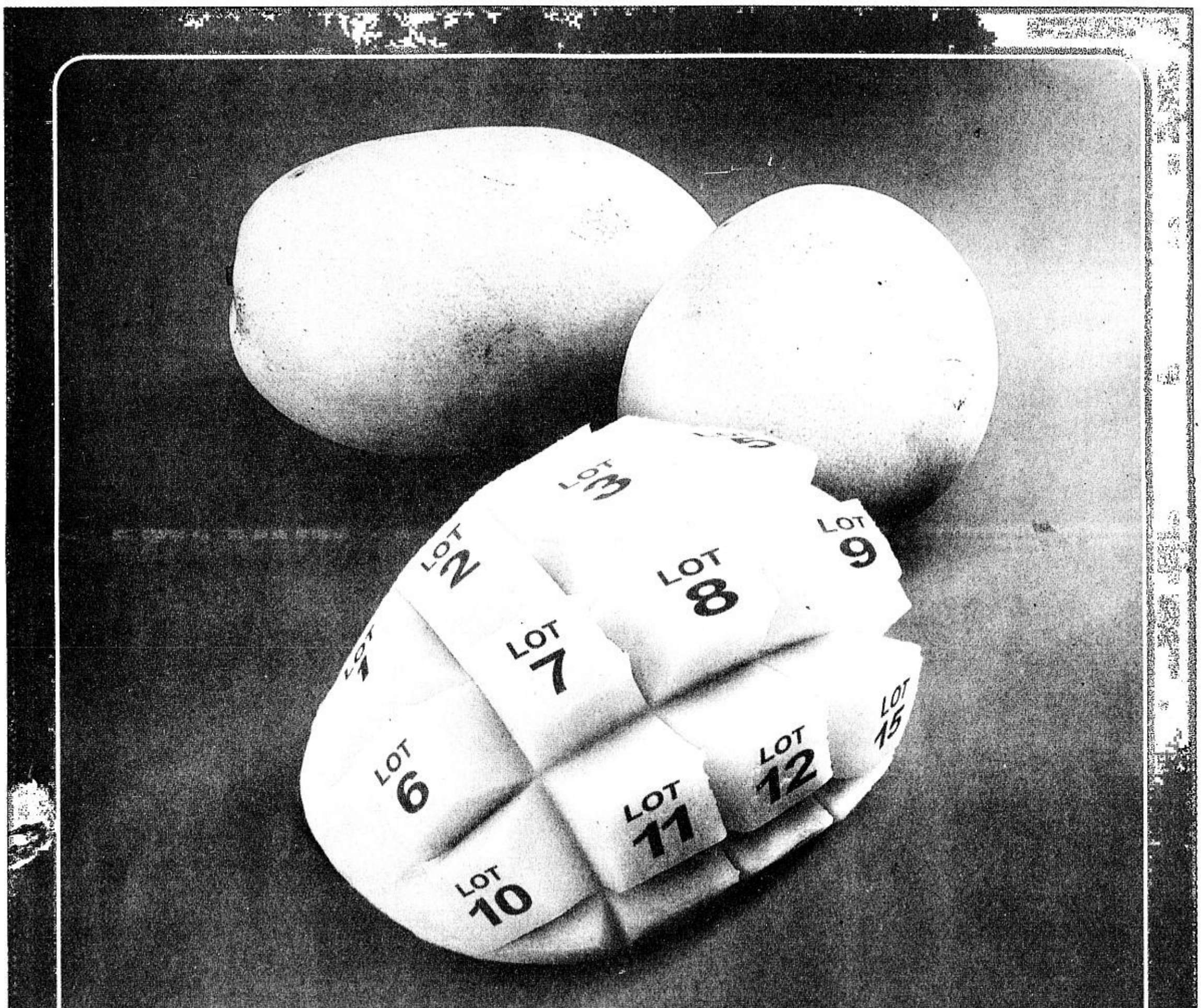

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Let alien lawyers practice here, urges UK exec

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE UNITED Kingdom is pushing for the liberalization of legal services in the Philippines to allow foreign lawyers, including its own, to set up offices and practice here.

David Lammy, British Minister for Constitutional Affairs, told the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) that the liberalization was necessary to attract more foreign investments.

During a luncheon at the IBP office before the weekend, Lammy said "multinational companies that choose to come here" need international legal service support. He noted that British lawyers currently doing business in the Philippines, for instance, were based in Hong Kong.

"I think it would be better if some of that money came back to the Philippines," he said, pointing out that Japan, Singapore, China and Thailand have opened their doors to foreign lawyers.

"The Philippines has a very strong legal system and some excellent lawyers," Lammy said. "But all legal systems benefit from an international base."

UK Ambassador to the Philippines Paul Dimond was sure that liberalization would boost British investments in the country. The UK has invested $17.2 billion in the Philippines over the past 10 years, accounting for six percent of total direct investments and 32 percent of portfolio investments.

Lammy said the matter could be discussed bilaterally. He said he had taken it up with the governments and lawyers associations of Korea and Malaysia, and that he recently had "a very positive meeting" on the subject with Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong.

The visiting minister also held talks with the Department of Trade and Industry and Chief Justice Hilario Davide.

"I am hoping that I won't have as many gray hairs as Colin Powell about the time the Philippines turns its mind to this issue," Lammy said.

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THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System is ready to release up to P12 billion in emergency loans to all GSIS members who apply for the facility.

This was announced by GSIS president and general manager Winston F. Garcia, who said loan processing will take only two days.

Garcia said he has instructed all GSIS offices in the country to observe the "received today, release tomorrow" processing standard of the agency.

Thousands of government employees recently held rallies at GSIS offices nationwide to protest the suspension of loan releases for the past four months.

Garcia said that during the period the protesters were complaining about, the GSIS paid out more than 200,000 loans and claims.

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Probers clear Ebdane in Crame shooting

From page A1

EBDANE

Ladja were allegedly tasked with mopping the floor of the OBC building, while Rajak Sagomayan was instructed to take the garbage outside.

The orders were allegedly given by PO2 Frumencio Lafuente, PO2 Arvin Garces and PO2 Alastaire Garcia, who were later killed by Bungkak during the three-hour shooting rampage.

Told to sweep the floor, Bungkak instead grabbed Lafuente's M-16 rifle and shot the officer, according to CIDG investigators.

They said the three other Abu Sayyaf inmates were "shocked" and hurried back to their cell.

The CIDG completed its investigation on Friday, the same day the five-man committee of the National Police Commission was to have wrapped up its own inquiry into the incident.

Yesterday, Interior Secretary Jose Lina, concurrent Napolcom chair, said he had not yet received a copy of the report.

The apparent laxity at the OBC building showed that the PNP had learned little from the escape of Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi and two Abu Sayyaf members from Camp Crame on July 14.

That escape was also blamed on "familiarity" between jail guards and the inmates and the defective cells of the Intelligence Group's old building.

Quit calls

It triggered calls for Ebdane's resignation, but President Macapagal-Arroyo instead put him personally in charge of the hunt for the escapees.

There are also no indications this time that the President is about to heed calls for Ebdane's ouster.

Last week, PNP information officer Senior Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil said there was no need for the resignation because the PNP had been addressing the security problems at Camp Crame even before the shooting.

Proof of this, he said, was the ongoing construction of the PNP custodial center that would secure the police's most dangerous inmates.

Members of the elite Special Action Force have taken over security at Camp Crame.

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KENNETH Villa suffers from Morquio's Syndrome. ELLEN TUYAY

Boy, 7, with rare ...

From page A1

The big difference is that, for the last four years, Kenneth has been bedridden, flat on his back with a tracheotomy tube attached to his throat. Ken has Morquio's Syndrome, a rare disorder.

In the Philippines, there are only three known cases of children with this disease. According to the Mucopolysaccharide Association Disorder Fact Sheet, Morquio Syndrome is an inherited disease belonging to the group of mucopolysaccharide storage diseases.

As a result of the store-up, cells do not perform properly and may cause progressive damage throughout the body including the heart, bones, joints, and the respiratory and central nervous systems.

Morquio's is caused by a recessive gene. If an adult carrying the abnormal gene marries another carrier, there is a one in four chance with every pregnancy that the child will inherit the defective gene from each parent.

Abandoned

For someone so young, Kenneth has had a great share of sadness in his life. Abandoned by both his parents, he is now under the care of his aunts, sisters of his father who now refuses to recognize him.

The Villas live in a small home in the suburbs of Cainta, Rizal. Ken's father was an engineer in Dubai and it was there that he met an entertainer. The two entered into an illicit relationship; the woman eventually gave birth to Kenneth.

When the woman found out she was pregnant, she went home to the Philippines with the intent of aborting the pregnancy. Kenneth's father got wind of the story and begged his mother to talk to the woman and to promise her that his family would take care of the child.

When Kenneth was born on Oct. 14, 1995, he was given to his grandmother, Edna Villa; his mother refused to have anything to do with him. Kenneth's father continued to visit him until he was around 2 years old. But when he married another woman, all communication and financial support to Ken was terminated.

Misdiagnosed

Up to the age of 2, Ken had been growing normally, except for great difficulty in walking and holding up his head. Initially diagnosed to have cerebral palsy, he was eventually properly diagnosed to have Morquio's Syndrome.

In 1998, he began to fall sick very often with some form of respiratory illness. Then, in October 1999, he became stricken with pneumonia. While in the hospital, a seizure put him in a coma for three days. He woke up on his fourth birthday.

"We said, 'Kenneth, wake up, it's your birthday tomorrow,'" his aunt Hedy Villa relates. On Oct. 14, 1999, Ken snapped out of his coma.

During this time in the hospital, it was discovered that the C1 (cervical one) section of his spine had collapsed, leaving him paralyzed. A cervical laminectomy with bone grafting was performed in November 1999.

Happy

Though the operation was a success, a portion of the bones in his spine did not fuse properly after surgery, resulting in his being bedridden at home for the last four years.

In spite of his illness and his family's financial woes, Ken retains a happy and hopeful disposition. This is perhaps in part because of the tireless devotion of his aunts who care for him round the clock.

"None of us have a background in nursing," said Merigie Villa, another aunt who acts as his nurse.

Another aunt, Jenny Villa, an overseas worker in Saudi Arabia, sends home all her earnings to pay for Ken's medical expenses.

The costs of caring for Ken are no laughing matter.

First, there is the ventilator which Kenneth has been on for the last four years; they lease it for P18,000 a month.

"Even if we want to buy a ventilator, we can't afford to because our debts have piled up," Hedy said.

A ventilator costs P180,000. Initially, the family hoped to strike a lease-to-own arrangement with the medical supplies company, but they were flatly refused.

"We could have paid for that a long time ago," Hedy said.

What the Villas are hoping for is to be able to bring Kenneth to the hospital to have his tracheotomy tube checked and possibly to have him operated on to ease his condition. For this procedure alone, the family has to raise a million pesos.

Hopeful

Meanwhile, until his aunts can raise the money, Kenneth remains hopeful and filled with an admirable faith. Gifted with an amazing sense of humor and wit he loves to mimic broadcast journalist Mike Enriquez. He repeats Enriquez's trademark line—"*Hindi ko kayo tatantanan*" (I will not let up)—with gusto.

His days are spent reading (he can rattle off practically all the capitals of every country on the globe), watching his favorite television programs—Nut's Entertainment and Debate with Oscar Orbos and Winnie Monsod.

He tinkers with a V-tech toy computer by using his knuckles and is surprisingly adept at texting. For one whose life has been filled with such sadness and who has spent each day of the last four years in bed, he remains terribly optimistic.

"*Gusto ko lang talaga gumaling. Alam ko naman pagagalingin ako ni Papa Jesus* (All I want is to get well. I know Jesus will make me well)," he said with a smile.

Tomorrow, Ken turns 8 years old. This boy who was once dubbed a "living miracle" by an American neurologist who visited him at the hospital, has a wish list that he hopes will help brighten the quality of his days at home—more books, a laptop to run computer programs and a play station.

He also hopes that his father will get to read about him in the papers. As he plays "When You Wish Upon a Star" on his toy organ (using his tiny knuckles), he said in Filipino: "It doesn't matter if my father doesn't love me. I still love him."

Life has not been kind to Kenneth Villa and yet he harbors no ill feelings toward anyone. Living proof that faith that can be found in the hearts of little children.

(Those who wish to help in Ken's medical expenses and make his wishes come true may contact Hedy Villa through 0916-6000548 and 457-7008.)

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Lacson says he'll brave arrest for last exposé

From page A1

"There are no more excuses. He has been in town for the past two weeks or so and the people are getting tired. We have urged him to come out and now he is trapped and is claiming political persecution. He is now in a deeper bind because he has raised expectations so high. If this explodes, and it will, he is a goner. And he will have to resort to a new gimmick now," Santos said.

More importantly, Santos said, "Let us focus on his dud of an exposé, or his right to parliamentary immunity or even his candidacy in 2004. But let us address the graver Kuratong Baleleng murder case of which Lacson is a principal."

Lacson was supposed to deliver the last part of the exposé on Oct. 6 when Congress resumed sessions, but he deferred it after his camp said that he was a target of assassination and that he might be arrested because the Supreme Court was to decide on the revival of the Kuratong Baleleng case against him.

Since then, Lacson has not been attending Senate sessions.

In his statement yesterday, Lacson said he would brave possible arrest when he delivers his speech today.

He said he had made himself "physically scarce" from the Senate so that he could consult his lawyers on the reopening of the Kuratong Baleleng case. He also mentioned the possible attempts on his life.

Not a dud

Lacson derided the Palace for saying that his exposé against the First Gentleman was a dud. The senator said Arroyo has spent millions of pesos in trying to cover up the accusations against him.

Lacson said he would file a case against Arroyo in due time. "In the meantime, I will continue to present to the Filipino people the true face of the government ... the most corrupt government that Filipinos ever had," he said.

Supporters of Lacson branded Santos and presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye as "Goebbels incarnate," referring to Adolf Hitler's main propagandist Joseph Goebbels.

In a statement, the Citizen's Movement for Order (CMO) said Bunye "persisted in spreading never ending lies to the people."

Bunye has said that supporters of Lacson "might as well stay home rather than waste their energies supporting the cause of Senator Lacson." Santos has called pro-Lacson protesters "paid hacks."

"Who is the real paid hack? What we understand is Attorney Santos is the real paid hack because he does not only act as a lawyer to the real Jose Pidal but doubles as the main lie disseminator," CMO national convenor Alain Pascua said. *Christine O. Avendaño and Alcuin Papa*

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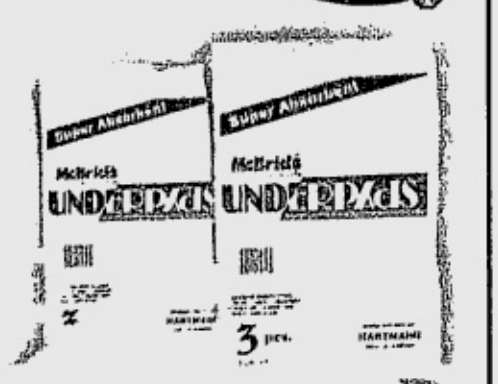

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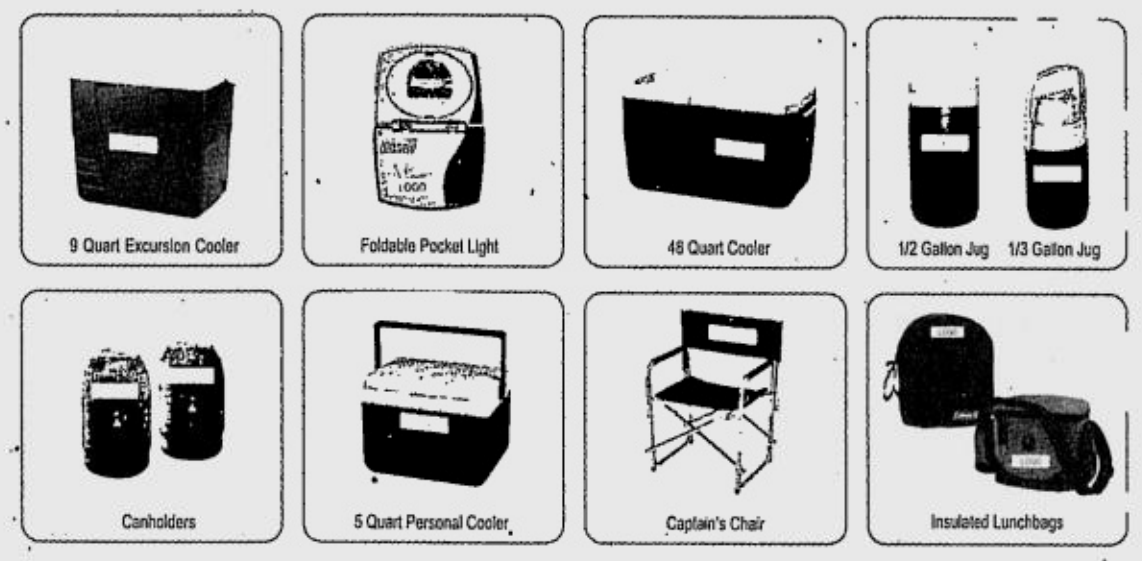

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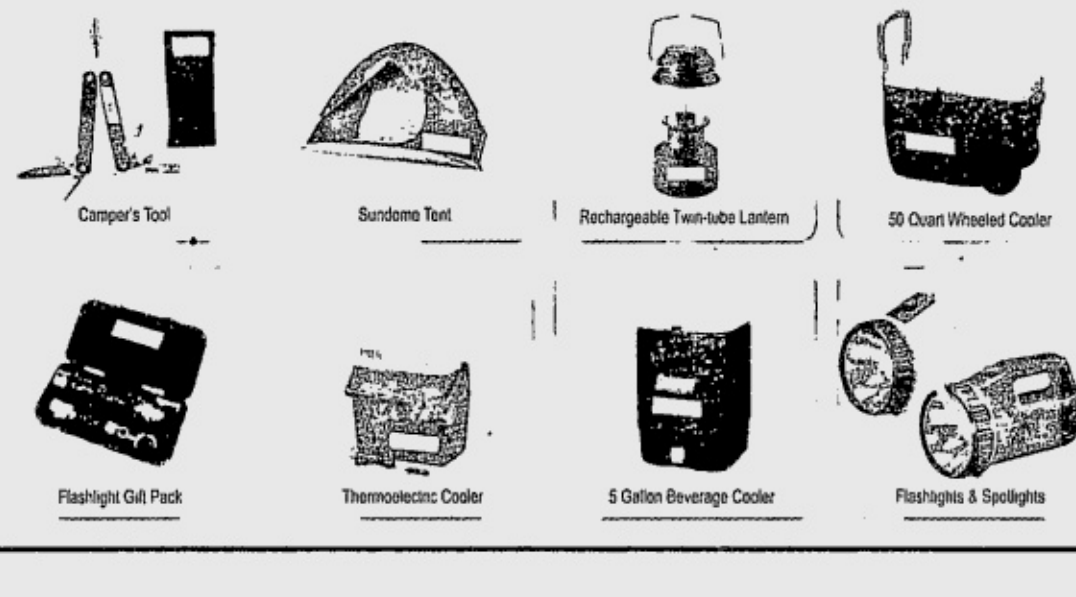

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

6 killed in Iraq suicide car bombing

BAGHDAD, Iraq—A speeding suicide driver, stopped short of a hotel full of Americans, detonated his car bomb on a busy commercial avenue on Sunday, leaving six people dead and dozens wounded, US military and Iraqi officials reported.

A member of Iraq's 25-seat interim Governing Council, Mouwafak al-Rabii, was in the Baghdad Hotel at the time and suffered a slight hand injury, he told Al-Jazeera satellite television.

Col. Peter Mansoor of the US 1st Armored Division said there were six dead, all Iraqis, and at least 10 wounded, including one American soldier who later returned to duty.

Police said an Iraqi security guard and the bomber were among the dead.

Saad Hamid, 41, a shopkeeper about a block from the scene, said police caught a car bomber at the same spot six weeks ago before he could detonate his explosive. Authorities then erected a blast wall at the end of the street.

The force of Sunday's blast blew over at least two sections of the thick concrete barrier and hurled bricks up to the third floor of nearby buildings.

One witness, Sevan Armin, 33, said the car approached the Baghdad Hotel on the wrong side of the street. "It was traveling at high speed. The guards at the gate fired on it. The car hit the concrete blast barrier and exploded." Armin had a slight head injury.

Another witness, Sabah Ghulam, 37, was in a car right behind the one that exploded.

"The car in front of us, a 1990 Toyota Corolla, suddenly turned into the hotel... A policeman shot at him four times, and then there was the explosion." He said the windows of his car were shattered.

Windows were blown out of buildings as far as two blocks away. The suicide bomber's car had come within 70 yards of the hotel, the apparent target.

US troops swiftly surrounded the blast scene. Ambulance sirens wailed and American helicopters circled overhead.

The blast rattled windows in the Palestine Hotel, home to many members of the international press corps covering the aftermath of the US-led war in Iraq.

This was the second big car bombing in the capital in the past four days. A suicide bomber hit a police station in Sadr City, the northeast Shiite Muslim slum, on Thursday, killing at least 10 people, including the bomber.

At al-Kindi Hospital, Dr. Ahmed Mustafa said his facility was treating 32 wounded and four were in critical condition.

L. Paul Bremer, the US civilian administrator for Iraq, quickly issued a statement of condolence to the victims.

"The terrorists know that the Iraqi people and the coalition are succeeding in the reconstruction of Iraq. They do not share the vision of hope for this new Iraq. They will do anything, including taking the lives of innocent Iraqis, to draw attention away from the extraordinary progress made since liberation. *AP*

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Dr. Leibrecht is the founder and CEO of Schiller University one of the affiliate schools of Southville Foreign Colleges. The educational system is fully coordinated in their campuses in Leysin, Switzerland, Heidelberg in Germany, Paris in France, London in England, Madrid in Spain, their main campus in Dunedin, Florida, and their SFC campus here in Manila. Their systems allow the student choice of campus every term and assume full credit for whatever units they have already finished.

The Dr. Walter Leibrecht Scholarship program will accept 24 full scholars with stipends depending upon the ITR of their parents. Another 100 partial-scholarships are included in the program and qualified students will pay only half of the tuition fee.

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The scholarship and grant awards will not only be based on academic excellence but will look into the over-all achievement of the candidate. Community development efforts, special creative talents, and achievements in the field of athletics will receive due consideration for as long as the students exhibits at least an above average intelligence quotient.

Students can avail of application forms at the SFC campus on Yokohama corner Luxembourg Sts, BF International Village, Las Pinas City, or they can also apply directly through the SFC website at www.sfc-colleges.com. Deadline for submission of applications will be on October 31, 2003. For further details please call 820-9181, 820-5952, 820-6774 and 825-5147.

Supreme Court of the Philippines
Judicial and Bar Council
Manila

The following are the applicants for nomination for three (3) positions of ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE COURT OF APPEALS vacated by Justices Oswaldo D. Agcaoili, Bernardo P. Abesamis and Cancio C. Garcia:

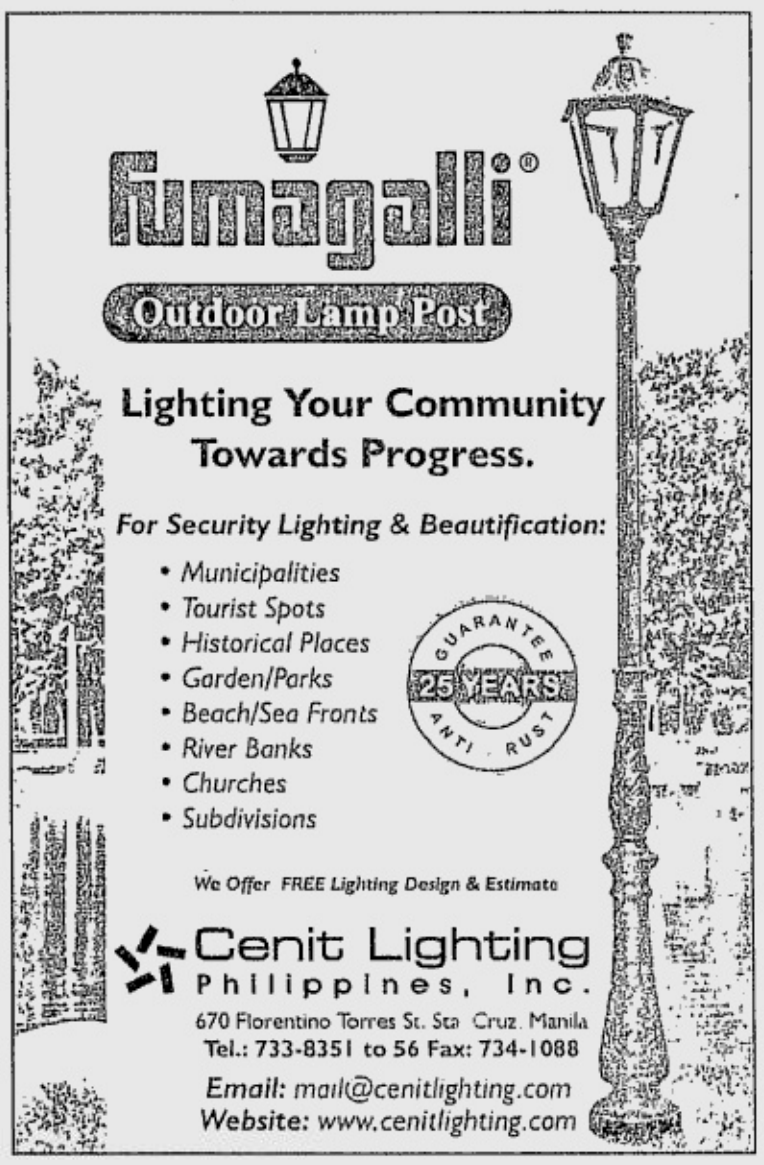
1. Abarintos, Pampio A.
2. Annang, Raymundo Z.
3. Arquelada, Dominador L.
4. Aspi, Feliciano A.
5. Ata, Loreto C.
6. Autea, Arthur P.
7. Avisado, Adoracion Cruz
8. Ayson, Ruben C.
9. Baclig, Vivencio S.
10. Baldado, Ismael O.
11. Baldos, Teresita Diaz
12. Barinaga, Sylvia Luczon
13. Bay, Teodoro A.
14. Besana, Lolita Contreras
15. Cabado, Rodolfo V.
16. Correa, Librado S.
17. Cualteros, Godofredo L.
18. Cuerdo, Caridad Grecia H.
19. Daway, Reynaldo B.
20. De Castro, Antonio I.
21. De Leon, Magdangal M.
22. Dicdican, Isaias P.
23. Dulay, Caesar R.
24. Erum, Bernardita Gabitan
25. Estoesta, Cecilio O.
26. Eugenio, Antonio M. Jr.
27. Fernandez, Rumoldo R.
28. Flores, Alfredo C.
29. Flores, Teresita Dy-Liacco
30. Floro, Florentino V. Jr.
31. Francisco, Raymundo T.
32. Gacutan, Angelita A.
33. Garrido, Crisostomo L.
34. Genilo, Lita Tolentino
35. Gingoyon, Henrick F.
36. Gonzaga, Agustinus V.
37. Grulla, Cielito Noriega
38. Guanio, Valentin C.
39. Guevarra, Irene R.
40. Herrera, Oscar C. Jr.
41. Infante, Amelia Tria
42. Ismael, Harun B.
43. Laggui, Antonio N.
44. Laqui, Hilario L.
45. Lantok, Arcangelita Romilla
46. Malik, Jacob T.
47. Marella, Sixto C. Jr.
48. Marquez, Placido Conti
49. Morga, Agripino G.
50. Muñez, Renato D.
51. Pacatang, Josie S.
52. Panganiban, Delia Hernandez
53. Pineda, Ernesto L.
54. Pinto, Ofelia Tuazon
55. Pizarro, Normandie B.
56. Querubin, Perla Bascos
57. Quiroz, Alex D.
58. Salazar, Jaime N. Jr.
59. Sison, Raul S.
60. Tagle, Lucenito N.
61. Tanguanco, Eduardo I.
62. Tayag, Arturo G.
63. Urbiztondo, Rodolfo G.
64. Vidal, Myrna Dimaranan
65. Vilches, Nimfa Cuesta
66. Villamil, Alejandro M.
67. Villarente, Benigno C. Jr.
68. Villasor, Edwin A.
69. Villegas, Liberador V.
70. Villon, Sesinando D.
71. Zenarosa, Monina A.

The public may submit any sworn complaint, written report or opposition against any of the aforesaid applicants/recommendees, not later than FRIDAY OCTOBER 31, 2003 to the:

Secretariat, Judicial and Bar Council
Second Floor, Centennial Building
Supreme Court, Padre Faura, Manila

09 October 2003.

LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO
Clerk of Court
Ex Officio Secretary



Patient sets fire to Belarus mental hospital killing 29

MINSK, Belarus—Twenty-nine people were killed Sunday after a patient in a mental hospital in Belarus set fire to the building, officials said.

Some 31 people were injured in the fire in Kozlovichakh, some 250 kilometers west of the capital Minsk, the Emergency Situations Ministry said.

Emergency Situations Minister Valery Astapov said one of the patients set fire to the building and that hospital personnel tried to put the flames out themselves but failed. They only called firefighters half an hour later, he said.

"The medical personnel of the hospital tried to cope with the fire on their own and save the patients and that's why they only notified the fire department half an hour after the fire began," Astapov said.

He said that when firefighters arrived, the entire building was already in flames and the roof had caved in.

The hospital was designated for people deemed unable to function whose relatives refused to take care of them.

Firefighters in the Grodnen region near the Polish border managed to save 31 patients, the news agency said.

Fires are frequent in crumbling institutions in former Soviet states, where buildings are often made of wood. Fifty children died in two separate school fires in Russia in April. *AP, Reuters*

Close call for Japan airliner, naval plane

TOKYO—A Japanese airliner and a naval plane narrowly escaped a mid-air collision last week when they came as close as 30 meters in zero visibility near a Pacific islet south of Tokyo, reports said Sunday.

The alleged near-miss, which took place last Tuesday, was reported by Air Nippon K.K. (ANK), a domestic unit of All Nippon Airways Co. Ltd., to the transport ministry on Saturday, major newspapers said.

A naval defense force spokesperson confirmed that one of its P3C sub... ...ter spotters came close to an ANK Boeing-737 jet near Hachijo Island, some 280 km south of Tokyo, early last Tuesday.

"But the P3C pilot did not recognize any possibility of a collision or contact with the civil aircraft," the spokesperson told AFP.

"ANK called it a near-miss and said the two planes were 30 meters apart at one point. But, to draw any conclusion, we need to wait for investigations by the transport ministry on the basis of data from both sides," he said. *AFP*

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• MODERN PURCHASING MANAGEMENT	October 18, 2003	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
• WAREHOUSE OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT	October 25 - November 15, 2003	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
• ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING FOR MGRS. AND SUPERVISORS	October 20 & 22, 2003	M-W	6:00PM-8:00PM
• EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAL COURSE	October 20 - 31, 2003	M-W-F	6:00PM-8:00PM
• PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT	October 18, 2003	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
• TECHNIQUES FOR WINNING AND KEEPING CUSTOMERS	October 18, 2003	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
• EFFECTIVE ORAL COMMUNICATION	October 20 - 31, 2003	M-W-F	6:00PM-8:00PM
• PERT/CPM	October 25 - November 15, 2003	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM

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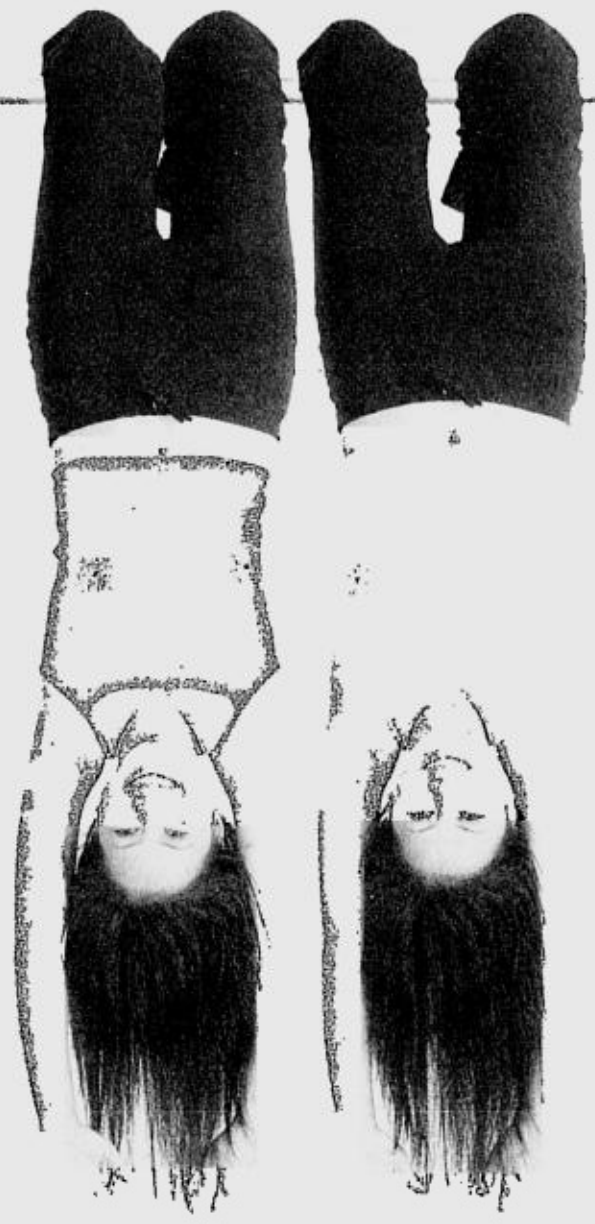

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CIVIL STATUS: SINGLE MARRIED SEPARATED WIDOWED
NO OF DEPENDENTS
CITIZENSHIP
HOME OWNERSHIP: OWNED MORTGAGED RENTED WITH PARENTS/RELATIVES
EDUCATION: HIGHSCHOOL SOME COLLEGE COLLEGE GRADUATE SCHOOL
TIN
Are you VAT registered? YES NO Do you need a VAT receipt? YES NO
HOME ADDRESS (number, street, district)
CITY/PROVINCE ZIP CODE YEARS OF STAY
HOME LANDLINE NO MOBILE PHONE NO.
EMAIL ADDRESS
NAME OF RELATIVE NOT LIVING WITH YOU RELATIONSHIP
HOME ADDRESS (number, street, district)
CITY/PROVINCE ZIP CODE HOME LANDLINE NO
Are you an existing Equitable cardholder? YES NO
Other Equitable Card/s: CARD NUMBER CREDIT LIMIT ISSUE DATE
1.
2.
3.

YOUR SPOUSE
LAST NAME FIRST NAME M.I
BIRTHDATE MM DD
EMPLOYED SELF-EMPLOYED
OFFICE PHONE NO

YOUR WORK AND FINANCES
EMPLOYED SELF-EMPLOYED POSITION YEARS WITH FIRM
NAME OF OFFICE/BUSINESS
OFFICE ADDRESS (department, floor, building)
(number, street, district)
CITY/PROVINCE ZIP CODE OFFICE PHONE NO.

GROSS MONTHLY INCOME (In Pesos) SOURCE OF INCOME
APPLICANT'S
SPOUSE'S
OTHERS
TOTAL MONTHLY INCOME

DEPOSIT ACCOUNTS: BANK BRANCH DEPOSIT BALANCE

OTHER CREDIT CARDS: CARD NAME CARD NUMBER CREDIT LIMIT

CREDIT EXPERIENCE: HOME MORTGAGE RENTAL CREDITOR MONTHLY PAYMENT
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3M people still unable to return home in Europe

WARSAW—Some three million people in Europe and Central Asia are unable to return to the homes they fled to escape war and human rights violations, according to a report submitted to Europe's biggest human rights conference under way in the Polish capital.

According to the report from the Norwegian Refugee Council under discussion at the annual rights conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the displaced people, from Russia's war-torn Chechnya to Serbia's province of Kosovo live in often desperate conditions.

"Three million people who were forced to leave their homes as a result of armed conflicts or human rights violations still wait for a durable solution to their plight," according the report.

"Many of them live in utter destitution and have no prospect to return in the near future as there is little hope that the conflicts that caused their displacement can be settled any time soon," the report said.

"Internal displacement is a grave humanitarian and human rights problem and it is a serious threat to security because it creates or perpetuates instability in the countries affected and the region as a whole," it said.

The report, submitted to the annual rights stock-taking exercise of the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, says the problem of displaced people affects 13 of the 55 OSCE countries, which span central Asia, eastern and western Europe, the United States and Canada.

The countries where the problem persists are Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Croatia, Cyprus, Georgia, Macedonia, Moldova, Russia, Serbia and Montenegro, Turkey, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

The report said that in eight of the 13 countries the prospects for return were "extremely small."

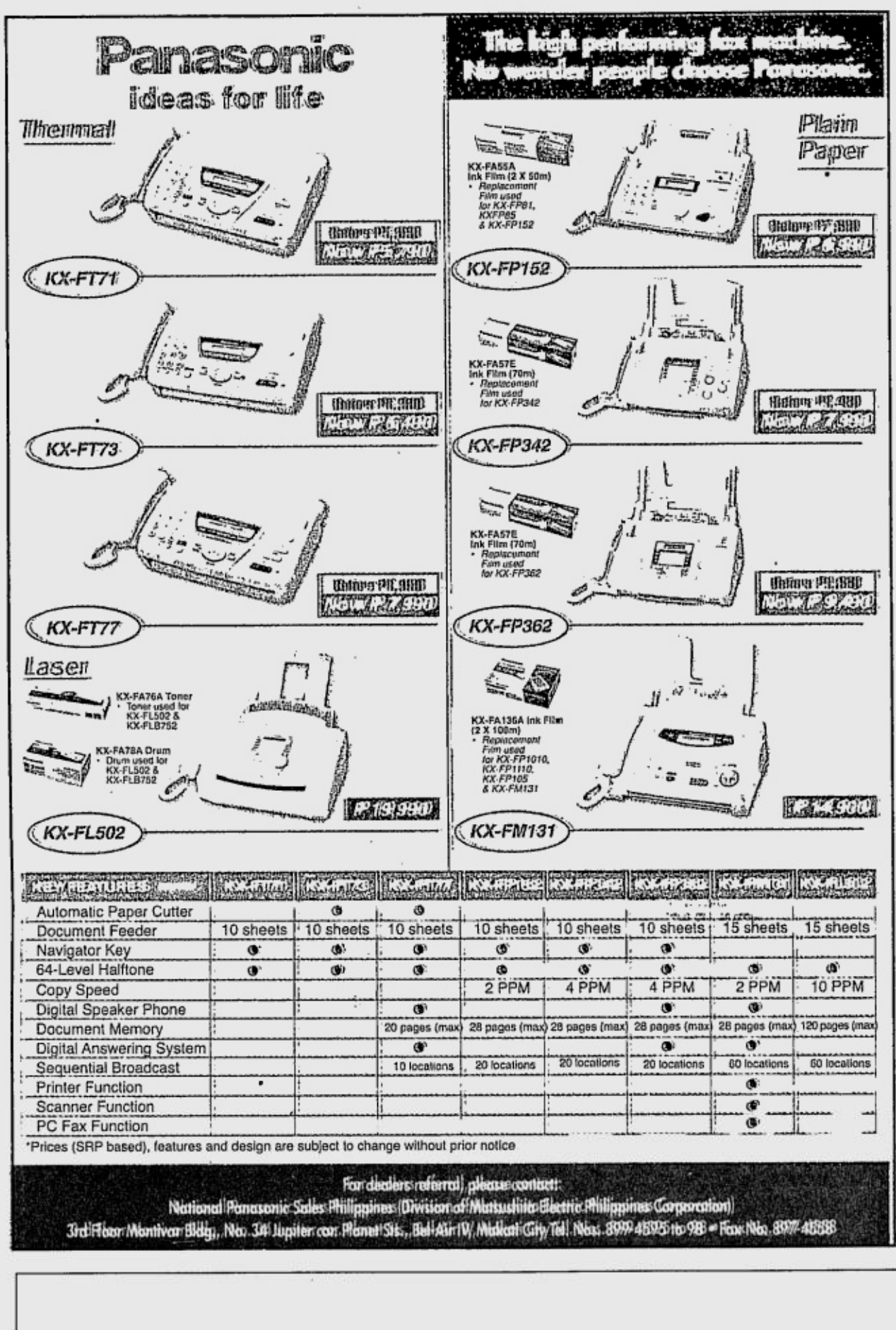
It said that returns were the exception rather than the rule, and that violence was creating new exiles from Russia's breakaway republic of Chechnya.

It said that people who had fled their homes in Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia and Moldova would be "likely to be prevented from going back for many more years."

And it said that in Serbia and Montenegro the return of Serbs who lived in the mainly ethnic Albanian province of Kosovo "is on the political agenda of the UN administration in Kosovo, but the reality on the ground does not yet allow for any significant return."

The OSCE, originally set up as a point of contact between Nato and Warsaw Pact countries, has evolved since the end of the Cold War into an organization mainly concerned with safeguarding human rights, democracy and the rule of law in Europe.

In the second week of its annual rights conference it will hold special sessions on discrimination, racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism, minorities and migrant workers. *AFP*



Pope's plight symbolizes fight against Parkinson's

By Richard Ingham

POPE John Paul II AFP

PARIS—For millions of people around the world with Parkinson's, Pope John Paul II, who celebrates his 25th anniversary as Pontiff on Thursday, symbolizes the gritty fight against a disease of relentless physical decline.

Muscular trembling, stiffness and stumbling, slurred speech, a face that is frozen into a living mask: the terrifying symptoms first described by British doctor James Parkinson in 1817 strike not just the Pope but around one person in every 100 people aged over 50.

Behind its monolithic exterior, however, Parkinson's—like cancer—is beginning to be understood as a disease with different shades and textures and potential weaknesses.

Just a couple of decades ago there seemed only one possible way of attacking the enemy. Today, though, Parkinson's is being assailed on several fronts. The speed at which it ravages the nervous system can be braked, and scientists are confidently inching their way toward the goal of a cure.

Parkinson's is caused by a lack of a chemical called dopamine, manufactured in part of the brain stem called the *substantia nigra*.

Why the *substantia nigra* can suffer from a decline in dopamine-producing cells has sparked various theories—a genetic cause, or an environmental trigger—although the effect of it is now well known.

Dopamine is a neurotransmitter: a chemical that is used by brain cells to communicate messages along a line, eventually moving the body's muscles.

When a message needs to be sent, the cell releases packets of dopamine which travel across a gap, or synapse, with the adjacent cell.

The packets fit snugly into receptors on that cell's surface and stimulate it into sending its own packets of dopamine across to the next nerve cell along the way. Thus a lack of dopamine slows or disables the signaling, leaving muscles useless or frozen.

The first inroads against Parkinson's were made in 1967 with the drug levodopa, a precursor of dopamine that occurs naturally in plants.

At first, L-dopa seemed to be answer to everyone's prayers, enabling sufferers to recover their physical lives with almost miraculous ease.

Then the hammer blow came: the well-being was only a honeymoon, lasting as little as three years before the symptoms returned. In addition, high doses of L-dopa were found to cause a jerky side-effect called dyskenesia.

Even so, L-dopa remains the "gold standard" for pharmaceutical treatment. So far it has no substitute. However, a smart drug, carbidopa, has been devised which enables a patient to take fewer doses of L-dopa and thus postpone the wearing-off effect, and there are treatments for dampening spasms and other symptoms.

There are also impressive new drugs that can inhibit the action of an enzyme in the synapses called MAO-B that gobbles up the precious dopamine, and of a companion neurotransmitter, acetylcholine, which works in conjunction with dopamine to ensure smooth movement and coordination.

The suspected genetic causes of Parkinson's are being eagerly explored. A drug that can block the malfunctioning gene or genes that cripple the *substantia nigra* would be a Holy Grail.

Pharmaceutical approaches, however, face a classic problem. Big molecules can be stopped from reaching the *substantia nigra* by a filter called the blood-brain barrier.

That has revived interest in neurosurgery, an option that was common but usually fruitless before L-dopa. *AFP*

WorldBriefs

Chavez: No reason to honor Columbus

CARACAS, Venezuela—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez urged Latin Americans on Saturday not to celebrate Columbus Day, saying the 1492 discovery of the Americas triggered a 150-year "genocide" of native Indians by foreign conquerors who behaved "worse than Hitler." "Christopher Columbus was the spearhead of the biggest invasion and genocide ever seen in the history of humanity," the populist president told a meeting in Caracas of representatives of Indian peoples from across the continent. Columbus Day on Oct. 12 is celebrated as a holiday in the United States and several Latin American nations, but Chavez said it should be remembered as the "Day of Indian Resistance." *Reuters*

'Blond Angel of Death' extradition

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Argentina likely would allow a former navy officer known as the "Blond Angel of Death," a symbol of the country's human rights horrors, to be extradited to France for a murder trial, Foreign Minister Rafael Bielsa said on Saturday. Alfredo Astiz, convicted in absentia and sentenced to life in prison by French courts in 1990, was arrested last month to face possible extradition to France for a fresh trial in the murder of two French nuns. President Nestor Kirchner, who has the final say over any extradition, in July annulled a decree that barred sending abroad for trials military officers accused of being involved in the dictatorship's "Dirty War" against suspected leftists, which killed up to 30,000 people. *Reuters*

Conjoined twins' surgery

DALLAS, Texas—Two-year-old Egyptian twins joined at the head were in stable condition as surgeons worked painstakingly to separate a thicket of shared blood vessels, doctors said. An update posted on the hospital website said the main phase of the operation, the neurosurgical phase, was continuing, and listed the boys' condition as stable. The procedure began at Children's Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, early Saturday. Doctors are now predicting it could last into Monday. *AFP*

40 killed in Nepal rebel raid

KATHMANDU—At least 40 people, including 37 Maoist rebels, were killed when the guerrillas attacked a police post in western Nepal, ending a Hindu festival truce, officials said on Saturday. They said the Maoists, fighting to overthrow the constitutional monarchy and create a communist republic, bombed the Armed Police Force base at Kusum, 450 km west of Kathmandu, late on Friday, triggering a fierce exchange of fire, the deadliest since the rebels deserted peace talks in August. *Reuters*

More than 40 Taliban prisoners bolt jail

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—Authorities were searching for more than 40 Taliban prisoners—including several commanders—who escaped from a high-security prison in southern Afghanistan by digging a tunnel, officials said. Several former Taliban commanders and the brother of former Taliban Defense Minister Mullah Ubaidullah were among the escaped convicts who disappeared without detection late Friday from a prison in Kandahar, Kandahar Gov. Yousaf Pashtoon said Saturday. Two government officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said five prison officials were also missing and are believed to have helped the Taliban, who had been arrested in recent months during fighting between Afghan forces and insurgents. *AP*

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Image

IT may be an accident of geography that California will serve as the point of departure for US President George W. Bush's six-nation, seven-day swing through the Asia-Pacific this week. But his two-day stopover in the state famous for making movies and inventing virtual reality, which will be highlighted by a first meeting with the governor-by-recall, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, has inadvertently revealed the true nature of the entire trip.

EDITORIALS This one is not about policy, but image.

The whole panoply of American shuttle diplomacy at the presidential level—Air Force One, Marine One (the presidential helicopter), US Secret Service agents and the rest of it—will be used as a substitute for substance.

Make no mistake. Bush will not lack for venues to make important speeches. He will address a joint session of the Australian parliament in Canberra as well as a joint session of Congress in Quezon City; he will attend the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference which Bangkok will host this year; he will meet with the leader of the world's second largest economy, Japan's Junichiro Koizumi.

But in terms of actual policy, we cannot expect anything new from Bush, because in his case new would mean reversing himself.

We can expect Bush to continue to preach the gospel of preemption. There is a good reason he did not condemn Israel's incursion into Syria last week; it is the application of the Bush doctrine in blood-soaked Middle East terms. He will be sure to stay on message particularly in Australia, where Prime Minister John Howard has embraced the policy of preemptive strikes into other sovereign nations as his own.

We can expect Bush to continue to share American bounty, distributing surplus US military hardware and development aid. He will do this, in spite of the fact that his request for an additional $87 billion in anti-terror funds from the US Congress has drawn fire, and the US budget deficit has reached alarming proportions, because many of his alliances are based on this kind of exchange.

We can expect Bush to continue to spread the good news about Iraq as a good war, undertaken on behalf of the world community, despite growing evidence that the US action undermined the United Nations, and its misreading of the Iraqi situation on the ground threatens long-term stability in the Middle East.

Because Bush will be preaching to the converted, we do not expect anything new, except pomp and more circumstance.

In reaction, militant groups have decided to engage Bush on the same level: Their plan to burn a hundred US flags throughout the eight hours of Bush's visit is meant to fight image with image, symbol with potent symbol.

Reality

A SIMPLE diplomatic calculus governs state visits; the host country, which foots most of the bill, expects to gain something from the visitor. In many cases, the gain can be as simple, and as sweeping, as a seal of good housekeeping. The same math applies to US President George W. Bush's week-long trip to Asia and Australia this week.

Indonesia, the last country to be added to the US itinerary, sees the quick trip that Bush is expected to make to the site of last year's Bali bombing as acknowledgement that the government of President Megawati Sukarnoputri has, quite literally, passed muster in the anti-terror campaign. "They've been working very closely with us in the war on terrorism, and we appreciate the cooperation we are receiving," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan has said.

Australia and the Philippines see the visit as confirmation of their status as two of the staunchest US allies in the war on terror. That Bush will address a joint session of the Australian parliament and a joint session of the Philippine Congress is acknowledged as a diplomatic coup.

Japan sees the visit as boosting the already high popularity ratings of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, who has just won a solid mandate from his party, dissolved parliament and called for early elections in November.

Not to be left behind, Singapore, the first Asian country to sign a free trade agreement with the United States, sees Bush's overnight visit as a vote of confidence in its economy after having been hit hard by the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome virus earlier this year.

Behind all the high-flown rhetoric, the reality is this: For various reasons, the various governments will use the Bush visit as a stamp of approval.

Can PNP stop terrorists?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

NEVER fear, GMA is here, said President Macapagal-Arroyo on the warning by Australian Defense Minister Robert Hill that the Philippines faces the "greatest threat" of a terrorist attack in Asia. "We're ready and capable of preventing terrorist attacks by the Jemaah Islamiyah," she boasted. Instead of being grateful for the warning, her security adviser, Roilo Golez, and interior secretary, Joey Lina, reacted angrily. They said there is "no basis" for any "specific threat" to the Philippines.

I wouldn't be so sure nor optimistic. If the police can't prevent the escape, several times, of very dangerous prisoners from its own headquarters, how can we be sure it can prevent a terrorist attack? How many times have we had terrorist attacks? Too many to remember. And there were no VIP visitors here then to attract any attack for propaganda purposes.

A bombing anywhere here—even outside Metro Manila—during the visit of US President George W. Bush would be a propaganda coup for the terrorists. It would be an explosion that would be heard around the world.

Even if it happened before the arrival of Bush and caused the cancellation of his visit, the Philippines' name would be in the mud. It would be a big propaganda against Bush and the United States, too. We would never be able to live it down. So an attack would be a great temptation to terrorists, no matter who they are—al-Qaida, Jemaah Islamiyah, Abu Sayyaf, Moro Islamic Liberation Front, New People's Army, or any other fanatical group. It would give them world publicity and, perhaps, a little respect and credibility.

So I wouldn't be so cocksure like the administration. Our security people should be very careful and thorough. The government boasts that it is going to field 10,000 policemen for Bush's visit. Even if it fields 100,000 policemen, that will not guarantee the prevention of a terrorist attack. It is so easy to plant a bomb somewhere. It doesn't have to be anywhere near Bush. The purpose is propaganda—that is, in spite of all precautions, a terrorist bomb had been exploded during the American president's visit; or even before his arrival, which could lead to the cancellation of his visit.

That would be free publicity for the Philippines. It would put the Philippines in the world map. Americans who previously didn't know there is such a country called the Philippines will know, all of a sudden, the exact spot in the globe where it is.

I am not trying to scare anybody. I just wish the President, her advisers and security officials were not so over-confident. Terrorists always try to be one step ahead of government security measures. Before the 9/11 attack in New York, nobody dreamed it was possible. Before the Bali bombing, nobody thought it would be done. So I wish our government would be very, very careful and thorough, leave nothing to chance and take the Australian warning seriously, instead of being angry.

I want to repeat the advice of AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya for "the public to be always vigilant."

"We have done our best to improve the security against terrorism and we continue to do so, but again nobody and nobody can give a 100-percent guarantee," he said.

What should the public do? Safety first. Stay away from crowded places. They are the most likely targets for terrorists. Be suspicious of boxes, bags and vehicles. They can contain bombs. Follow orders of the police, guards and security people. They should know what they're doing. Allow yourself to be frisked. That is for your own safety. Don't join violent demonstrations. Some cops with itchy trigger fingers may become panicky and start shooting. Remember, with Bush here, police officers and men would be under extreme pressure. Once violence starts, get away from the scene as quickly as possible.

* * *

Who will be the opposition presidential candidate? That is the guessing game going on right now. With the revival of the Kuratong Baleleng murder case against Sen. Panfilo Lacson, and the lifting of the sequestration of Danding Cojuangco's 20 percent shares in San Miguel Corp., the choices are dwindling.

Lacson can still run, but if he is arrested and held without bail, he cannot campaign. And the administration campaign line is obvious: Why will you vote for a candidate who is going to prison anyway?

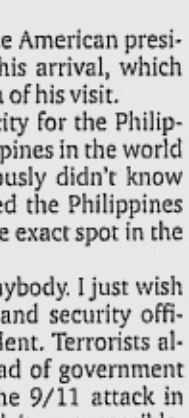
Now that GMA is running, it is not likely that Cojuangco will run, either. He was hoping GMA would not run and he would be the anointed candidate of the administration coalition. Now, that is out of the question; Cojuangco will not risk a confrontation with the President. If he lost, he would be harassed all throughout GMA's second term. He could even lose his gem—SMC.

Cojuangco is no fool. He knows the politicians egging him to run are doing it because of the billions in campaign funds they think he has. But much money doesn't guarantee victory, as he painfully learned in 1992. Besides, he's down in the surveys. And he knows that the millions of coconut farmers will vote against him. What would happen to their coco levy fund if Cojuangco became president? Plus his alliance with Marcos is still fresh in the minds of the people. What would happen to the ill-gotten wealth cases against the Marcoses if he became president?

Opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel is convinced that there was a deal between the administration and Cojuangco behind the Sandiganbayan decision, and that the opposition has lost Cojuangco. *(To be continued)*

'Trapo'

THERE'S THE RUB



Conrado de Quiros

AQUILINO Pimentel predicts that last week would probably be the last time the opposition would see Danding Cojuangco. Cojuangco, he says, has crossed to the other side. He has done so after the Sandiganbayan ruled to give him back his sequestered 20 percent of San Miguel Corp., paving the way for his resumption of control over the corporation.

Well, there's no reason to doubt it, trade-off being written all over Cojuangco's sudden reversal of fortune. Even Joker Arroyo, GMA's most ardent defender to date, thinks so, wondering aloud if Malacañang hasn't cut a deal with Cojuangco. He might as well have asked if there was any chance GMA would change her mind and run again.

It serves the opposition right for entertaining the thought of fielding Cojuangco as standard bearer. What is it Rep. Jacinto Paras keeps saying? Cojuangco is the best presidential candidate because he is an expert manager and he has the resources? Well, there is a difference between being able to manage one's own affairs, so that one always manages to extract a profit for oneself, and being able to manage the affairs of the nation, so that one always manages to provide for the public weal. Cojuangco has always been famous for the first and notorious for the second.

Paras forgets moreover how Cojuangco got those resources. Didn't Cojuangco flee to the United States with his boss, Ferdinand Marcos, to escape the ire of an irate citizenry, chief of them the coconut farmers whose *tong*—that was exactly what the coconut levy was, no more and no less than the one extracted by cops from jeepney drivers—built his wealth? People who acquire resources that way are not about to part with them for the public good—or indeed the good of the political camp he (temporarily) finds himself in. If Cojuangco could not care for the plight of millions of dirt-poor farmers, he cannot care for the plight of a handful of dirty allies. The opposition has just learned an object lesson in how not to hustle a hustler.

GMA, of course, has denied horse-trading with Cojuangco and has even asked the Presidential Commission on Good Government to continue to fight for those shares. But quite apart from the fact that she is not the best person to talk about horses—her son stands accused of smuggling racehorses to the country, the better to give circus in lieu of bread to groveling plebeians—her ability to tell truth from lie is nowhere in evidence. Her credibility is at an all-time low, she having just broken her word not to run again. And her craving for a second term, which she has shown with exceptional zeal since the start of her term, makes it perfectly likely she struck the deal not just to dissuade Cojuangco from running but to solicit his support for her candidacy. Well, she may just get the same object lesson tomorrow as her rivals have gotten today.

But whether she does or not, her gamble isn't bound to boost her electoral stock. Two things have become clear from the last two presidential elections, 1992 and 1998, neither of which augurs well in that respect.

The first one is that machinery and resources are not decisive in winning presidential elections. Media projection and popularity are. The one who had machinery and resources in 1992 was Ramon Mitra who was the Speaker of the House and the anointed standard bearer of the party in power. He lost, and lost badly. To Fidel Ramos, who bolted the party in power after he failed to grab the presidential nomination; and to Miriam Defensor-Santiago, whom nobody gave a chance, everyone saying she neither had party nor funds. Both had tremendous media exposure, Ramos projecting himself through Cory Aquino, and Santiago projecting herself through the Bulletin.

The one who had machinery and resources in 1998 was Jose de Venecia. He too was House Speaker and the anointed standard bearer of the party in power. He too lost, and lost badly. To Erap, who was the most popular presidential candidate this country has ever known; and to Raul Roco, whom nobody gave a chance too, everyone saying he had neither party nor funds.

But the even more important lesson from those elections isn't just that popularity is in but that *trapo* is out. Mitra and De Venecia didn't just lose to Ramos and Erap because the latter were more popular. They did because they personally were seen as *trapo*—as people who would do anything to get to power, even sell their souls for it. Or the more visible forms of Faustian exchange, which is to wheel-and-deal, to compromise, to strike unholy deals.

That is the fate that stares GMA in the face. It is not only that she is pitting herself against popular rivals—there is something amiss when a re-electable president can't get better ratings than third and fourth in surveys—it is also that she is seen as a *trapo*, in the same mold as Mitra and De Venecia. A mere beneficiary rather than maker of Edsa, she has shown from Day One only a desire to stay in power at all costs. A complete contrast with Cory—to whom comparisons are bound to be made—who made it very clear she was stepping down at the end of her term, and did.

GMA's deal with Cojuangco—it is bound to be seen as such, and it probably is such—can only deepen the public's perception of the President as an out-and-out *trapo*. One who will not let gratitude to benefactors (Cory and Jaime Cardinal Sin, scourge of Marcos and his cronies) get in the way of a second crack at Malacañang. One who won't mind making deals with the devil himself (herself?) to get a second crack at Malacañang. With GMA's credibility already being where it is, this cannot possibly help to improve it. Not all the king's horses (horses again!) and not all the king's men can bring Humpty Dumpty back together again.

So for eggs that sit on walls, so for presidents that hang on air.

Criticism and approval

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WITH THE BOLTING of Reporma Party from the People Power Coalition, the question is: Will presidential adviser for strategic concerns Renato de Villa resign his post? De Villa has played a significant role in the peace process vis-à-vis the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, and so far the Palace says that De Villa stays, even though the party he founded has joined a third force fast gelling under Vice President Teofisto Guingona. This everything-is-normal stance is statesmanlike of President Macapagal-Arroyo, just as many citizens saw that she didn't allow politics to figure when she left Guingona, despite his having bolted Lakas days earlier, as government caretaker during her trip to Bali last week. She made it a point to thank him for doing a good job of taking care of the government at the beginning of her arrival speech, and the two highest officials shook hands quite cordially. GMA seems to be growing in states(wo)manship.

* * *

GMA's decision to run in 2004 has reaped both criticism and approval, dividing civil society. The group called the Kilusang 12:30, which was formed to support the President's Dec. 30 decision not to run, has decided to disband as the premised "sacrifice" on her part no longer applies. But Kilusan holds in abeyance its stand on 2004. However, one civil society leader who seems happy about GMA's decision to run is Dr. Evelyn Kilayko of the Concerned Women of the Philippines who sent me a fax letter to say that "all of us Filipinos should appreciate this very difficult decision (GMA) has made." Kilayko stressed that the country has enormous problems accumulated over the many years and needs "a superwoman" to solve them. She said she is happy with "just a very hard-working human president in GMA, who remains focused on her job, despite all the mud-slinging and politicking," adding that "We Filipinos should learn how to appreciate a good thing when we have it, instead of just complaining all the time."

* * *

I stated in a previous column that the timing of the Sandiganbayan's order lifting the sequestration of Eduardo Cojuangco's 20 percent personal shares in San Miguel Corp. is quite unfortunate and difficult to fathom. This is because it comes less than two weeks before the Oct. 21 meeting set by the graft court to hear the sides of both the Cojuangco camp and the Presidential Commission on Good Government on the ownership of those shares. Determining the rightful ownership of those shares should resolve the side issue of sequestration. Why the graft court went ahead with the lift order is the interesting question that has led some senators to allege a political deal has been forged between Cojuangco and the Palace. Such speculations, of course, Malacañang denies, and they may be unfair to the court. But the timing of the court's order favoring Cojuangco is certainly poor. One way to dispel this allegation is for the PCGG to file a motion for reconsideration.

* * *

The Oct. 21 meeting was set in response to Cojuangco's motion to lift the sequestration of his shares; but the PCGG had also earlier filed a separate motion pressing the graft court to come up with a summary judgment on the coco levy shares in SMC, arguing that its resolution was long overdue. In December 2001 the Supreme Court ruled that the coco levy funds were "prima facie public funds" and ordered the graft court to resolve the ownership of the questioned SMC shares within six months. But almost two years have passed since then, hence the PCGG's urgent motion for summary judgment.

The 20 percent personal shares of Cojuangco were sequestered by the PCGG in 1986, along with the 27 percent shares purchased with coco levy funds in the name of the coconut farmers, thus giving the government control of 47 percent of SMC shares. But over a year ago, the Supreme Court ruled that Cojuangco can vote the 20 percent, although it remained under PCGG sequestration. There are speculations as to why he wants the sequestration lifted. But I am more intrigued by the question of who really owns the 20 percent—did Cojuangco pay for it with his own money, or did he acquire it with coco levy funds, as the PCGG alleges?

* * *

Records show that Cojuangco acquired the 20 percent in 1983 when he was president, CEO and director of both the United Coconut Planters Bank, which was set up with coco levy funds, and the CIIF Oil Mills, a company formed by Marcos to control the coconut industry in the late '70s. By his own admission in Civil Case 33 pending before the Sandiganbayan, Cojuangco got almost P2 billion in "loans" from the UCPB and "advances" from the CIIF, and used these funds to buy 20 percent of SMC shares from Enrique Zobel. However, the loans were not enough to pay for all the 20 percent because of the Dosri and the "Single Borrower's Limit" both of which limit the amount a bank official can borrow from his own bank. Cojuangco was reportedly able to get around that limitation when President Marcos issued an LOI allowing the CIIF to borrow from the UCPB without the limitations. CIIF did borrow more than P1.4 billion from UCPB and then lent it to Cojuangco as "advances."

* * *

It appears that Cojuangco never claimed to have used money from any other sources to pay for the Zobel shares. Hence, his big task now before the graft court is to prove he paid back the CIIF "advances" (perhaps as salary deductions?) and the UCPB "loans." This would need proper documentation, something he appears not to have submitted up to this time. But there's another question that nags: if the CIIF could use its own money to buy the original Soriano shares now constituting the 27 percent of SMC shares, why didn't CIIF buy the 20 percent Zobel shares as well?

Days and nights of our lives

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Noralyn Mustafa

IT wasn't just the outrageous attire, though by itself that was bad enough. Nor was it the fact that the provincial government had to move the opening of the celebration of Sulu's 613th anniversary of local governance to the 22nd of September—four days after the official date, while all the other activities which could not be deferred had to go on, ahead of the actual opening—because that was the only date in her crowded calendar that the guest of honor, President Macapagal-Arroyo, could visit Jolo for the occasion.

And when she arrived to a welcoming throng dressed up in their festival best worthy of the presence of the President of the Republic, President Macapagal—what fashion sense after that impeccable wardrobe on her latest trip abroad—came garbed in a "mongrelized" (one is hard put to find the right word to describe it) version of the Tausug dress.

The Tausugs are very proud of their traditional dress and respect their conventions: the color combinations, the number of gold buttons, the designs of the lapels, etc.

And here was the President in colorless pants and shirt (with rolled-up sleeves) with matching running shoes, which was bad enough amid all the silk and glitter. But adding insult to injury, she topped it all—like fondant icing over cassava cake—with a beautiful *habul tiyahi-an* (hand-embroidered *patadyong*). It made even an ardent fan like me wish for the days of Madame Imelda Marcos, who at least knew what to wear where and when.

But the above is a digression.

What the majority of residents here felt most disappointing in the President's visit—her second, by the way, not the first as reported in the media—was not what she did, but what she didn't.

She did not mention anything about their biggest problem, the incredibly high electric rates and very poor power service.

At 10.04/per kilowatt-hour as of June this year, the rates are probably the highest in the country. For close to three months now, we haven't had power for at least 10 hours in a day due to repairs on the generators. Before that, there were the unannounced, unexpected 2-5 hour daily brownouts.

And when there is no power, everything else shuts down, too. Television, radio stations, hospital equipment, communication facilities, etc.; worst of all, the water pumps.

I failed to submit my column the last time because we did not have electricity for 24 hours. Both my computers are in the shop for repair because they simply could not cope with the frequent fluctuations and outages. Believe it or not, I am typing this on an electric typewriter using batteries because there's no electricity right now.

But that is not all, what has made the situation desperate is the PPA or power purchase adjustment which grew from 25 percent in March 2001 to 132 percent as of June 2003.

The numerous letters and several trips to Manila of Jolo Vice Mayor Delma Ynawat to bring the matter to the attention of concerned agencies seem to have led nowhere. Mayor Hadji Suod Tan convened a meeting, which was attended by the military commander, heads of provincial and national offices, representatives of various sectors and a cross-section of the community, where it was decided to file, through the mayor, a case in court to have the matter settled.

Three days later, Mayor Tan filed a special civil action for injunction and prohibition with preliminary injunction with the regional trial court, as a result of which acting presiding Judge Abdua Jula issued a temporary restraining order to the electric cooperative and local arm of Napocor to stop collecting the PPA.

What an immense relief it was for the consumers to find the PPA, which they considered "unjust and unreasonable," gone from their electric bills.

But alas, the TRO was good for only two billing months, July and August. Worse, when the consumers got their September billing, they found to their dismay that the PPA charges for the two months under TRO were all tucked into the bill!

For a province that is ranked among the three poorest in the country, such high costs of power is a burden that is, for many, almost impossible to bear.

At this point, it seems no relief is in sight. In their desperation, many had believed that only the President herself could free them from this misery.

The President did announce the package of goodies that she usually promises in her provincial sorties, but what we were dying to hear was for her to say that she had ordered the PPA charges abolished because there was nothing to justify it; that she had directed Napocor to send us an additional power barge so that we could have more power supply and start living normal lives with 24-hour electricity.

But she never did.

Or maybe she was going to, but she was stopped when the mike went dead, because of a sudden power outage. *Sayang.*

* * *

Comments to nm19@my.smart.com.ph

Let the bells of Balangiga stay in Wyoming

COMMENTARY

Dean Jorge Bocobo

GEORGE W. Bush was sworn in as America's 43rd President on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2001, Inaugural Day under the US Constitution. On that very same day, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo became the 14th President of the Philippine Republic, at the dramatic climax of Edsa II. This Saturday, Oct. 18, 2003 (Bush's state visit) Gloria and Dubya will share day No. 1,001 of their presidencies.

Both leaders came to their nation's helm at a time of grave peril from an enemy whose annihilistic intentions Americans only saw on Sept. 11, 2001. Many Filipinos have not yet done so, sneering at the global war on terror as America's excuse to exercise superpower hegemony. Yet, al-Qaida has been active in the Philippines for over a decade. Masterminds Khalid Sheik Mohammed (Sept. 11), his nephew Ramzi Youssef (Oplan Bojinka and first World Trade Center attack), and Jemaah Islamiyah's operations chief Riduan Isamuddin (Bali's Hambali) have all left their marks here.

Before he escaped, Indonesian terrorist Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi was serving time for the Dec. 30, 2000 Rizal Day massacre perpetrated by al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah to retaliate for Erap's all out war on the MILF--when they bombed and killed 22 people aboard a packed LRT commuter train on busy Taft Avenue.

Taft Avenue--Manila's long artery from Baclaran Church to Bonifacio Monumento. Taft Avenue--as in William Howard Taft, the first civilian governor of the Philippines (a la Paul Bremer in Iraq) appointed in 1900 by President William McKinley at the height of the Philippine-American War.

(Exactly 100 years ago in 1903, Taft--all 340 magnificently sweltering pounds of him—sent a telegram to then Secretary of War Elihu Root in which he bragged of riding horseback 25 miles up a switchback Benguet mountain trail with his friend, Michigan zoologist Dean Conant Worcester. Taft had discovered "a cold paradise" in the middle of Luzon island in the fabled La Trinidad Valley that would indeed become the made-in-America city of Baguio. The undersea telegraphed reply of Secretary Root is recorded by writer Virginia Benitez Licuanan: "How is horse?")

Taft would later become the 27th president of the United States after Theodore Roosevelt, and chief justice of the US Supreme Court until 1930. He is the only American to ever hold both posts. Grolier says of him:

Taft's governorship of the islands (1901-1904) was a high mark in colonial administration for any nation. Taft had, in marked contrast to the military, no trace of racial prejudice. He was warmly sympathetic to the problems of the Filipinos. He believed in giving them the widest possible degree of self-government. But Taft was never deceived by the extremists among them. He recognized that the first steps toward the ultimate goal of independence was public education in the islands and the end of ownership of land by the Roman Catholic friars. Taft negotiated an agreement with the Vatican in 1903 whereby, with American financial assistance, the lands were sold in small parcels to the Filipinos.

No wonder the Catholic Church is still the seat of ideological anti-Americanism in the Philippines and its radicals have called for a hundred church bells to ring in protest of the Bush state visit. Perfect background for the hundred burning US flags that their allies on the local and transnational Left will put on for the eagerly waiting media.

Whatever "Manifest Destiny" McKinley was planning for the Philippines was assassinated with him on Sept. 6, 1901, just weeks before the Battle of Balangiga—which I regard as the Armed Forces of the Philippines' greatest military victory in defense of the three-year-old infant Philippine Republic. The victorious Katipuneros won the battle of Balangiga, but lost the Philippine-American War. So what? Texas lost to Mexico at the Alamo too, yet Texans celebrate the Alamo as a victory in the fight for liberty.

I say, let the bells of Balangiga stay in Wyoming—as *consuelo de bobo* to the US Ninth Infantry, which US Army records show also suffered suspiciously massive casualties to Sitting Bull at the battle of the Little Big Horn, during the American Indian wars. Keep the bells of Balangiga. Let them be a silent reminder of the brave bolomen of Samar, who outwitted and defeated them in honorable battle defending a newborn democracy and independence.

Indeed, I would rather take the welcoming words of their commander in chief at the White House last May: "The Philippines was the first democracy in Asia and has a proud tradition of democratic values, love of family and faith in God. President Arroyo, you are carrying this tradition forward, and I'm proud to call you friend... *Mabuhay!*" Bush is the first US President to acknowledge that June 12, 1898 is the correct date and the CIA World Factbook of 2003 is wrong listing Philippine Independence Day as July 4, 1946. I'm sure the oldest democracy in the world can survive this historical revision, which is so important to the Filipino nation, its newest major non-Nato ally.

Iraq was not America's first experiment in exported democracy. The Philippines has that distinction, as America's first and only-ever colony. George W. Bush can be a greater president than McKinley or Taft, only if he can show that America means to globalize democracy itself when he told the UN last year: "Liberty is God's gift to every human being—not America's!"—and went to war to prove it. *(More at my website--http://deanjorgebocobo.blogspot.com/)*

Safety of news sources is crucial

READERS' ADVOCATE

Raul J. Palabrica

WHENEVER possible, newspapers identify the sources of their news. The identification adds credibility to the report. The readers want to have a face or name behind the news that matters.

Last Oct. 2, the INQUIRER opted to maintain the anonymity of its source on an important police story. Bearing the banner "14 police officers linked to drug trade," the front-page news included the statements of an informant that 14 police officials are involved in the sale of illegal drugs seized from laboratories of drug syndicates, prostitution and illegal gambling.

The news did not disclose the informant's name. All that was said about him were the province he comes from and his alleged links with the National Police Commission. Of the 14 police officials mentioned in his affidavit, only three were identified by the INQUIRER, namely, Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro of the Central Police District and Supt. Abner Ontong and Supt. Lina Sarmiento of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency.

A reader, Rosayln Bustamante, read this news and similar reports that appeared in two other broadsheets. The non-disclosure of the names of the informants and 11 policemen caught her attention. She wrote: "In one newspaper, the name of the informant, Jonathan Prestado, was reported, including all the other officials he named in his affidavit. Another newspaper reported the names of the police officials except Mr. Prestado.

"Why did the other newspapers give the names of the informant and other police officials but your newspaper hid them from the public? It was only today (Oct. 3) that I read their names in your newspaper. I think you did not live up to your commitment to report the truth when you hid the names of the informant and police officials. Is it not your duty to report the truth because the truth shall set us free?"

Commitment

The reader's observations are correct. The names of the informant and 14 police officials were published, although separately, in two other broadsheets. The omission, according to the INQUIRER's section editor, was done on purpose and in compliance with existing editorial policies.

Retracing the events that led to the publication of the news in question, the lady reporter who covered the informant's press conference explained that the latter repeatedly pleaded with her and the other reporters present to keep his identity confidential. He feared for the safety of his 11-month-old child and mother-in-law who were in La Union.

Although no words of agreement were expressed, there was a tacit understanding among the reporters that they would abide by the informant's request. The INQUIRER reporter said she was morally obliged to honor that accord and so she did not mention his name in her report.

With the safety of the informant and that of his family in mind, plus the promise of confidentiality made by the reporter, the editor decided against revealing the informant's identity. After all, no news is that important to justify putting at risk the safety of a news source or his loved ones.

When the informant's name came out the following day in other newspapers and broadcast media, the editor felt there was no point in keeping his name under wraps. So in succeeding news stories, Jonathan Prestado, also known as Juanito Perpinion, was identified as the source of the damning report against 14 police officials.

Unnamed officials

On the question of why the INQUIRER did not give a complete listing of the 14 police officials and instead mentioned only three of them, the editor clarified that he withheld the disclosure of the names of the 11 policemen until they were given the opportunity to explain their side on Prestado's accusations.

When the news report was written on the evening of Oct. 1, only the three high-ranking police officials of the Central Police District and PDEA were within reach by the newspaper. They had the opportunity to defend themselves from the criminal charges being imputed to them by Prestado.

The rest of the police officials are based in Region 1 and there was no means by which the newspaper could get in touch with them without missing the printing deadline. It would be unfair to name them in the news without their side being written about at the same time. Pressed for time, the editor opted to keep their names out of the news and limited the identification of the alleged rogue cops to the three high-ranking officials.

As things turned out later, Prestado was disowned by his handlers and he failed to support his accusations against the 14 police officials with any other evidence.

Given this development, I think, from hindsight, that had the names of the 11 police officials been prematurely disclosed, the newspaper would have done them and their families a big disservice.

Heart attack

Going to another subject matter, Dr. Raquel Fortun of the UP College of Medicine recently wrote the INQUIRER asking it to be careful in the use of the words "cardiac arrest" in describing the cause of a person's death. She enumerated six news reports that improperly used those words.

She wrote: "... cardiac arrest is NOT a cause of death. The term simply means that the heart stopped beating and when this becomes permanent then the condition is part and parcel of death. It is not even a sure sign of death since the non-beating heart can be restarted mechanically, electrically or chemically.

"Cardiac arrest is not synonymous to heart attack which is the layman's term for what doctors call acute myocardial infarction. This means the heart muscle is destroyed from lack of oxygen because the blood vessel supplying it becomes blocked.

"Carelessly attributing deaths as due to cardiac arrest is downright wrong and embarrassing for an eminent paper like the INQUIRER. You are misleading not only the public, but also unfortunately some doctors who happen to be poorly trained in death certification techniques.

"Should your staff find the need for clarification regarding certain medical issues they are reporting on, feel free to consult me. Please help improve the sorry state of death investigation in the Philippines."

Thanks for the information, doctor. The newspaper will take on your offer to be its resource person in reporting death cases when the need arises.

* * *

The readers' advocate may be reached at the following address: "The Readers' Advocate" c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or through fax nos. 897-4793 to 94, or readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph.

Farewell, Sister Christine!

WE bid farewell to Sr. Christine Tan, friend of the urban poor, fighter for social justice and human rights.

Senior Bayan leaders remember Sister Christine's fearless and unwavering stand against the Marcos dictatorship, especially on the issue of human rights and the plight of the teeming communities of the urban poor subjected to arbitrary and inhuman treatment.

After the fall of Marcos, despite political differences between the national democrats and their allies in the anti-dictatorship struggle, our communication lines with Sister Christine remained open. In several instances, we ran to her for sudden needs, e.g., money for fact-finding missions or for an educational campaign to explain the dangers behind pending anti-terror bills.

The younger set of leaders, for their part, became acquainted with Sister Christine in the Estrada Resign Movement. She was skeptical about the preferred thrust of the social democrats for the impeachment route. She felt that was an arena which Estrada could easily manipulate in his favor while with the "resign" call, all forms of protest could be undertaken to politically isolate Estrada and literally force him to step down. It was not long before Sister Christine became a convenor and stalwart of the ERM.

Sister Christine had powerful friends in high places. This was partly due to her having come from a privileged socio-economic background, but more likely because of the distinctive role she played in the anti-dictatorship struggle. She never flaunted these connections but would matter-of-factly suggest certain names of influential people who could be approached for help.

Characteristically, she also had her own respectable mobilizing capacity. Countless times she brought scores from the urban poor group she founded, the Alay Kapwa Christian Community, for the anti-Erap campaign and for various other issues, causes and campaigns before and after that, notably the peace movement against the US bombardment of Afghanistan and the war on Iraq.

Sister Christine had very strong convictions and, as expected, strong ideological perspectives as well. But she did not let these get in the way of her forging alliances, even friendships with those coming from a certain philosophical world view. To her credit, she respected and showed appreciation for integrity, honesty, a heart for the poor and oppressed, hard work and forthrightness—regardless of one's ideological beliefs.

We will miss Sister Christine. A woman of few words, she was steady as a rock in her advocacy for the poor and social reforms. She goes home to her Maker, secure in her legacy—her praxis of giving up a life of luxury and ease, living instead with the poor she loved, sharing in their weal and woe and making a difference in their ordinary lives and in their extraordinary struggles. *Mabuhay ka*, Sister Christine!

—CAROLINA P. ARAULLO,
vice chair, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan, 23 Maamo St., Sikatuna Village, Quezon City

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Enrile's pro-power consumer antics

FORMER SEN. Juan Ponce Enrile's most recent attacks against the Power Reform Law confuse me.

Enrile claims that the law is "anti-consumer" because by allowing private utilities the same rights as Napocor to recover stranded costs, it preserves their monopolistic hold over the energy industry. He would scrap this right granted to private utilities and leave Napocor with a clear edge and the sole ability to compete in a deregulated environment.

Enrile, far from preventing the emergence or continued existence of a "monopoly," instead promotes Napocor's. Does he equate his pro-Napocor stance with that of being pro-consumer? This, after all the abuse we consumers have received from the state-owned monopoly all these years!

My reading of Enrile's never-ending litany of complaints against the power industry is simple. I have first-hand recollections of martial law and I know my history. Maybe the youth today, sadly, are no longer aware of Enrile's role in those years—our country's darkest. But his present-day antics decidedly still have a Marcosian stench. Not entirely unexpected, really, given his past. Does Enrile truly believe that by misleading and manipulating the public, he can win their votes?

—DOROTHY MEDALLA,
8 Alaric St., Kingsville Subd., Antipolo City

Privacy or immunity: Which is the worse refuge?

INTERESTING and informative were "The right to privacy" and "The disreputable Mr. Lacson"—titles of two recent columns of Justice Isagani Cruz.

Because of the controversy further fueled by Ignacio "Iggy" Arroy's invocation of "the right to privacy" during the Senate investigation, I had the urge to read up on case materials and Supreme Court rulings on this issue. Former Justice Cruz was correct in his discussion of the topic. Indeed, the senators cannot compel a person to reveal details about his monetary deposits which are protected by the bank secrecy law, without violating his constitutional right.

Some senators maintain that Iggy lost that right when he admitted he owns the Pidal accounts. Sen. Panfilo Lacson maintains that Jose Miguel Arroyo, Iggy's older brother, is the owner of the accounts in his recent exposé.

However, Cruz backed up his opinion with constitutional provisions and a pair of rulings. First, from the Supreme Court: "There can be no doubt that the right to privacy is constitutionally protected." From former Chief Justice Enrique Fernando: "The right to privacy as such is accorded recognition independently of its identification with liberty; in itself, it is fully deserving of constitutional protection."

But the Senate investigating body refuses to heed Cruz's opinion and said it will subpoena Iggy anew when it resumes its hearings on the controversy. What if Iggy continues to resort to his right to privacy? Will they take it to the Supreme Court?

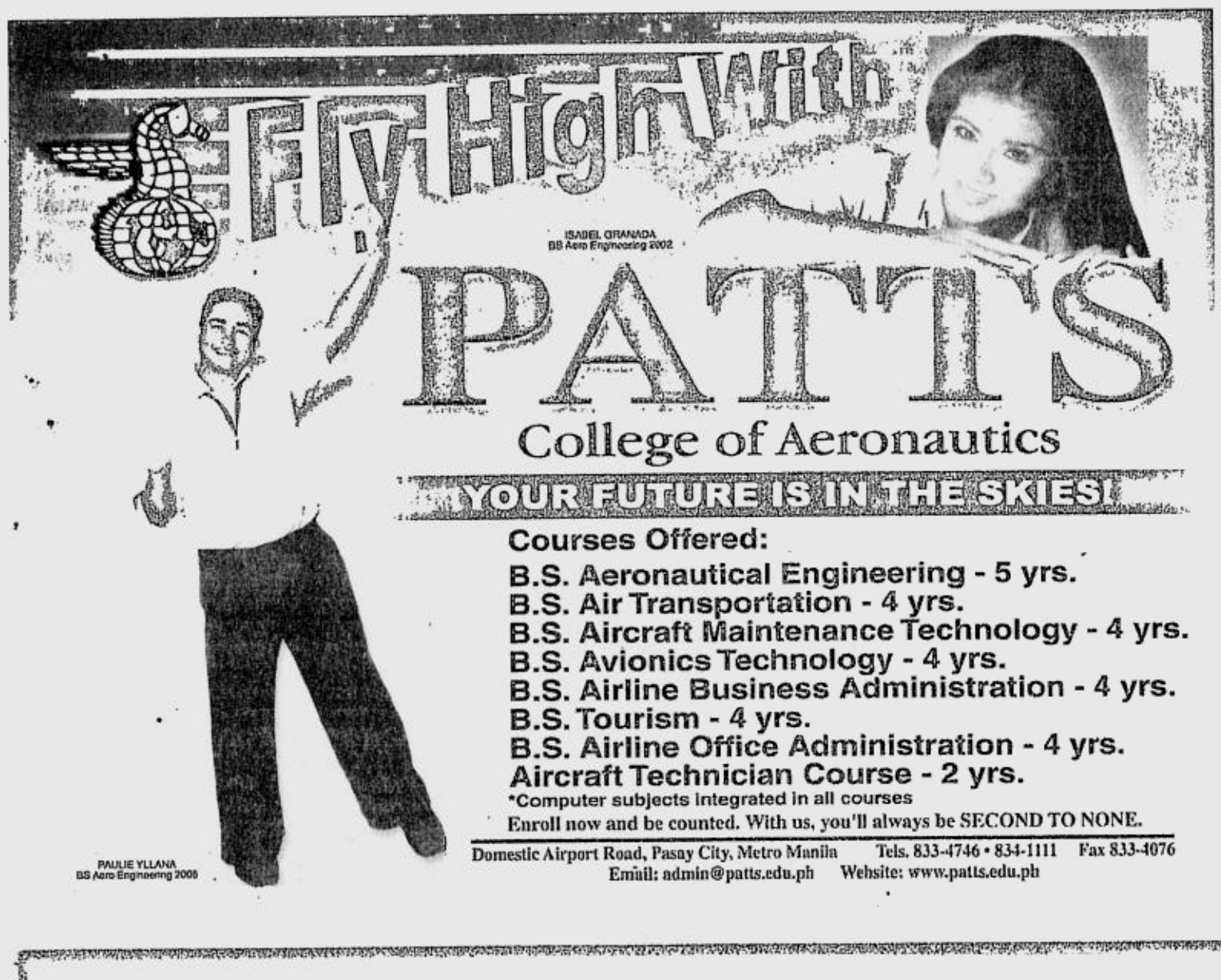
On the second essay which referred to accusations against Mike Arroyo regarding the Jose Pidal accounts and amorous relations with Victoria Toh, the dictates of due process require the accuser to prove his accusations with competent proof without resorting to a fishing expedition in the hope of eliciting evidence from the person being accused.

If Lacson really has the goods on the President's husband, he should charge him in court. Why resort to the Senate as a forum to air what have been so far mere allegations against the President's husband?

If senators say Iggy is hiding behind an imagined constitutional right, then Lacson is also hiding behind a questionable Senate provision that makes its members immune from charges for airing untruths in a privilege speech.

It's been some kind of a witch hunt so far with images of innocent people getting tarnished and damaged, maybe beyond repair.

—ALFONSO BASIL REYES,
Philippine Stock Exchange Center, East Tower, Exchange Road, Ortigas Business Center, Pasig City



How should we amend Constitution?

THE CHARTER change gang in Congress which wants to make constitutional amendments through a constituent assembly, is titillating President Macapagal-Arroyo with a transition presidency option that is likely to extend her term without having to go through the rigors of an election campaign. Thank God the parliamentary government contemplated by the congressmen is unacceptable to many senators and they refuse to dance the "Cha-cha."

Our politicians can argue themselves hoarse on the merits of their preferred form of government, but the immutable fact is, with our present crop of politicians elected into power by an emotionally and intellectually deficient electorate, no form of government will work for us. Be it parliamentary, presidential, federal etc., with all their variations, our politicians and scheming big business will always find ways of sapping the fat of the land for their comfort. Theocracy may not even work because there will be the scramble for being the prophet of God. Jaime Cardinal Sin is now retired, but we still have Brothers Eraño, Mike, Eddie, etc. who are prominent in the political scene. Supreme Master Ruben Ecleo might even join the fray.

If we have to amend the Constitution, it would be best if this be done by a constitutional convention consisting of delegates not obsessed with some agenda for political roles for themselves in the future. This should be easy to do if the law calling for a constitutional convention will include a provision barring delegates and members of their immediate families from holding public office, elective or appointive, within a certain period (15 to 20 years maybe) after the promulgation of the constitution they write.

A welcome recent development is the interest of some civic and NGO groups in inquiring into the lifestyle and moral behavior of public officials. Unfortunately, GMA is lukewarm to the development and is not giving this encouragement. Perhaps in the new Constitution it can be spelled out clearly in the Bill of Rights the citizen's prerogative to look into the conduct of those who govern such that their lifestyle shall be under constant surveillance while they are in service and wield power and authority.

—E. P. DAKANAY JR.,
43 Baltazar St., Philamlife Village, Pamplona, Las Piñas City

Worth dying for

AS a foreigner I am often intrigued by the saying of the late Sen. Benigno Aquino: "The Filipino is worth dying for." I still see so many Filipinos who are absolutely unworthy of dying for. Take the case of Raul Zapatos, the forest guard who was unjustly sentenced to life imprisonment by the "honorable" judges of the Sangguniang Bayan. Watching his case on TV as it was presented by ANC host Gene Orejana's "On Line," in my anger I exclaimed: those judges should be killed! Of course, I should not say that, when even the unjustly convicted Zapatos said on TV that he had no ill feelings against the judges, only gratitude for the Supreme Court which acquitted him of the charge, and that, after languishing in jail for five years. Zapatos shot an illegal logger in self-defense.

Zapatos, a fellow Cagayanon at that, is a compatriot I am really proud of, a true Filipino who—together with the many known and unknown victims of our unjust and corrupt system—is indeed worth dying for. But honestly, I am not yet ready to die until the time that all of us are ready to fight, tooth and nail, to get rid of all those corrupt government officials including their lawyers and corrupt counterparts in civil society. Then the Filipino would be worth dying for. *Mabuhay ang* Filipino!

—ARNOLD VAN VUGT,
Horeb Center, Cagayan de Oro City

Misdirected focus

I WOULD just like to comment on Pasay City Mayor Pewee Trinidad reacting to the Metro Manila Development Authority urinals. How can he manage to find the time to react to such a trivial matter when he cannot even clean up the bigger problems of the city? As a resident of Pasay City, I find it so ridiculous that he takes the time out to react to public urinals when the problems of traffic, garbage go unresolved!

Take the bus terminals. Evicted out of Manila, they are now mostly in Pasay City. Is it because the bus terminals are a source of income and the urinals are not? Is that why he refuses to have them in Pasay? I am not saying he is taking money from the bus companies, but I really cannot understand why he has taken the time out to question a public service!

—ALEX BERNABE,
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Suspend Aurora logging, groups urge DENR chief

BAGUIO CITY—Environment groups in Northern Luzon have asked Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun to suspend large-scale logging activities in Aurora, which, they said, continued to damage the forests of the Sierra Madre.

The appeal was contained in a resolution signed by about 100 representatives from government agencies, local governments, nongovernment organizations (NGOs) and people's organizations involved in the protection of the Sierra Madre Biodiversity Corridor (SMBC).

They expressed concern over the continued operation of logging companies that have existing permits to cut trees within the Northern Aurora Conservation Area, through Timber License Agreements (TLA) and Integrated Forest Management Agreements (Ifma).

The group also denounced government officials for their failure to impose sanctions on companies for violations of their logging permits, such as excessive logging and encroachment into the ancestral domain of the Agta and Dumagat in northern Aurora.

The resolution was passed despite Gozun's absence at the 2nd annual SMBC stakeholders' conference here on Friday.

The meet was intended to unify efforts of stakeholders to address the continued degradation of the SMBC.

"We've been airing these concerns (over continued logging operations) for years now, but it's sad that practically nothing has been done about it. We hope that with our unified voices, our appeal would finally be heard," said Remy Gutierrez of the Bahay Talakayan para sa Rekonstruksyon at Ikauunlad ng Sambayanan (Bataris), an Aurora-based NGO.

Gutierrez said the people of Aurora have long been suffering from the harsh effects of deforestation in the area, the latest of which were the flash floods and knee-deep mudslides that hit Dinalungan, Dilasag and Casiguran towns during the onslaught of Typhoon "Harurot" in July.

Six logging permits cover an estimated 199,000 hectares or 64 percent of Aurora's total land area, according to Michael de Guia, area manager for Conservation International-Philippines, a foreign-funded NGO.

Around 81 percent of Aurora's estimated 250,000 hectares of remaining forest cover should be maintained to minimize ecological catastrophes such as soil erosion, flash floods, siltation of waterways and water shortage, according to the SBMC resolution.

"(The) economic returns derived from taxes and livelihood (from logging concessions) do not compensate for the mass destruction caused by flash floods due to deforestation that has been experienced throughout the province of Aurora," the resolution read.

The group cited Palawan, Samar and Quirino, which, despite a logging moratorium, have continued to exhibit strong economic development.

Aurora, on the other hand, with its commercial logging activities, continued to lag behind as a third-class province, the group said. *Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Hero's burial for slain cop

BAGUIO CITY—The city buried with full honors on Saturday the policeman who was credited for retrieving his wounded colleagues before he was shot and killed by an escaped detainee during a hostage-taking incident in Camp Crame last week.

PO2 Alastaire Garcia, 32, was shot in the chest and head by Abu Sayyaf member Buyungan Bungkak on Oct. 7 at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) compound in Camp Crame, Quezon City. Bungkak seized the M-16 rifle of his escort, PO2 Frumencio Lafuente, and shot and killed the latter.

Garcia and PO2 Alvin Garces were later shot by Bungkak.

The CIDG units in the city and the Cordillera escorted Garcia's remains to the Baguio Memorial Park where they offered him the traditional 21-gun salute.

"It is the least we can do for an honorable policeman," a policeman said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Farmer, 3 others killed in ambush in Nueva Ecija

By Anselmo S. Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CABANATUAN CITY—A farmer and his three helpers were killed while two others were wounded after they were ambushed in San Antonio, Nueva Ecija, on Saturday, police reports said.

Killed were Mario Mendoza, 47, and his helpers—Loloy Ebiza, Elmer Pausa and one identified only as Leo.

PO3 Joselito Padilla of the San Antonio police said Mendoza's group was aboard a Wrangler jeep when at least seven men fired at them along the Barangay Papaya road in the town.

Their two wounded companions were taken to the San Antonio District Hospital.

Mendoza's two other helpers escaped unhurt.

Investigators recovered spent shells from Armalite rifles from the crime scene.

Reports said Mendoza and his seven helpers went to the village to buy fish for a friend's birthday party. They were attacked as they were returning to the town proper.

Police said the attack could be related to Mendoza's farming activities. Reports said Mendoza was farming a large tract of land in Barangay Isla Verde, about 30 km from the San Antonio town proper.

Walkout mars meet on Iloilo coal plant

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

BANATE, Iloilo—Hundreds of residents walked out from a public consultation on Saturday as opposition to a plan to put up a $150-million coal-fired power plant to be operated by Korean Electric Co. (Kepco) here intensified.

The protest action was triggered by the sudden turning off of the microphone while a critic of the project was questioning the procedure of the meeting at the town's multi-purpose gymnasium.

Composed mostly of students of the Banate National High School, the protesters proceeded to the parish church across the gymnasium where speakers took turns lambasting the proceedings.

"Why won't they allow us to speak?" said Debbie Denila, chair of the Banatenhon Against Coal-Fired Plant, an alliance of entrepreneurs, students, medical practitioners, religious groups, teachers and residents.

Mayor Carlos Cabangal Jr. called the opponents "ill-mannered" for disrupting the meeting. They should have waited for their turn to air their stand, he said, adding that more dialogues should be held so that all parties involved would be "enlightened."

Melvin Purzuelo of the Responsible Ilonggos for Sustainable Energy (Rise) questioned why Kepco-hired consultants under Geosphere Technologies Inc. were facilitating the meeting.

Jinelyn Guazon, technical staff member of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Environmental Management Bureau who acts as the case handler, said the department was only observing the proceedings.

The meeting was part of preparations for an environmental impact assessment (EIA) that is required before the government approves the power project.

Kepco has signed a memorandum of understanding with the municipal government to conduct studies for the construction of 100-megawatt plant under a build-operate-own scheme in a 25-hectare area in the coastal village of San Salvador, around 5 km from the town proper.

The plant will use the Circulating Fluidized Bed Combustion, the latest technology from Switzerland that, according to Energy and Kepco officials, ensures the ecologically safe utilization of coal.

Kepco initially targeted Ajuy town as project site, but the Korean firm decided to transfer to Banate after meeting resistance from some members of the Ajuy municipal council.

Cabangal said the municipal officials were fully supporting the project because it would increase the town's revenues and provide employment and livelihood to residents.

PNP livelihood program benefits 540 youngsters

By Anthony S. Allada
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—Some 540 young people have benefited from the Out-of-School Youth Serving Towards Economic Recovery (Oyster) project since it was launched last month by the Philippine National Police in Southern Mindanao.

Chief Supt. Isidro Lapeña, regional police director, said some P300,000 worth of livelihood aid and trainings have been given to the beneficiaries.

Project Oyster aims to help out-of-school youths to become financially independent so they would not be enticed to commit crimes. It was launched Sept. 12.

The first recipients were 10 scavengers who live in the new dump in New Carmen in Tugbok District. They were given P20,000 worth of scrap iron and tools for scavenging.

Recently, 80 youths were trained in shining shoes and have since been earning from their newly acquired skills.

Lapeña said that 145 persons were also trained in flowerpot making, water container making, goat raising and "watch and wash your car."

Davao del Sur has the biggest number of beneficiaries in the region with 185 youths trained in bonsai pot making, candle making, fruits and vegetable cultivation, bamboo furniture making, and floor wax and candle production.

Aside from providing livelihood, the program aims to build a closer relationship between the community and the police, Lapeña said.

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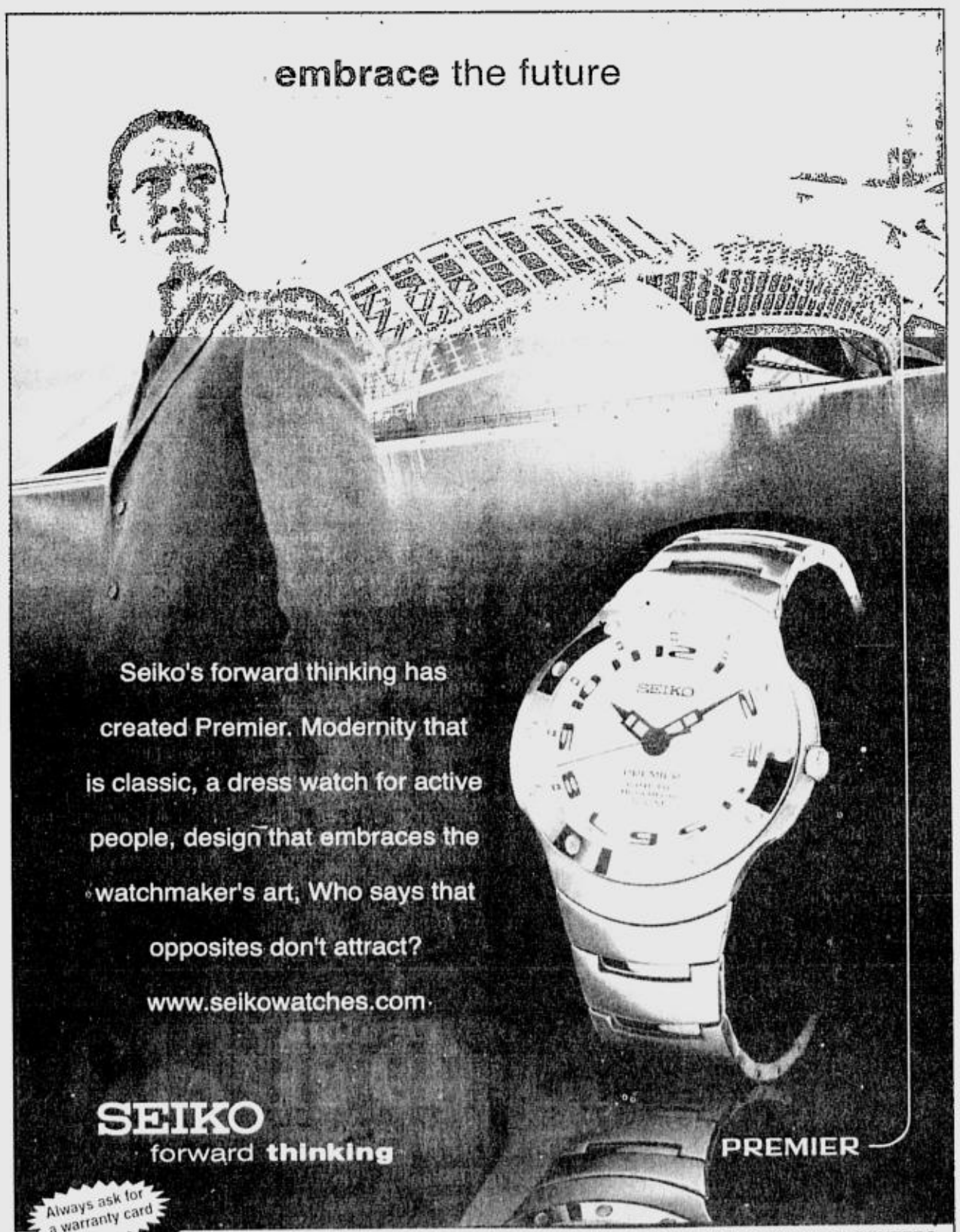


Second hirit na!
Meralco Refund

Para sa mga customer na kumonsumo ng 101 hanggang 300 kilowatthours base sa April 2003 bill.

Sa lubusang paglilingkod ng MERALCO sa mamamayang Pilipino, tuloy-tuloy pa rin ang pagbigay ng refund na sinimulan noong June 2003.

Sino ang kasama sa Phase 2 refund?
Simula September hanggang December 2003, ang mga registered at active residential at general service customer na may konsumong mula 101 kWh hanggang 300 kWh base sa April 2003 bill ang makakatanggap ng refund.

Magkano ang makukuhang refund?
Ang halaga ng refund ay base sa kilowatthour na konsumong kuryente ng registered customer sa loob ng panahon mula February 1994 (o simula ng kontrata sa Méralco) hanggang May 2003.

Saan at kailan makukuha ang refund?
Nakalagay sa inyong September 2003 bill kung anong buwan naka-schedule ninyong matatanggap ang refund. Kung buwan na ng inyong refund, makikita ang mga detalye tulad ng saang branch, kailan at magkano ang makukuhang refund. Abangan ang electric bill na may refund details.

Paano makukuha ang refund?
Siguraduhing kumpleto ang dala ninyong dokumento para makuha ang refund.

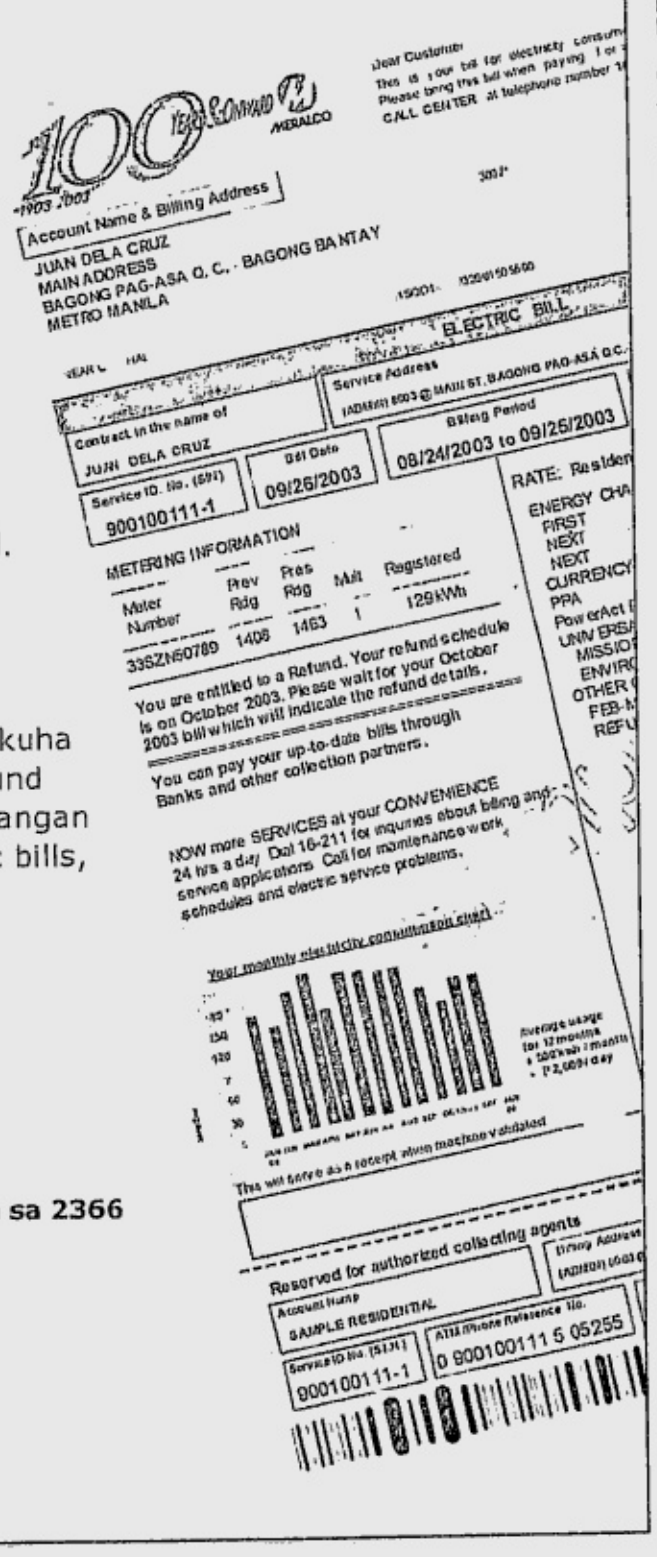
Kung ang service contract ay nakapangalan sa inyo (bilang registered customer) dalhin ang:
a. **Current bill na may refund details**
b. Isang (1) valid ID na may litrato at pirma tulad ng:
Driver's License, PRC License, Passport, New SSS/GSIS/TIN ID
c. **Xerox copy ng inyong valid ID at ng current bill na may refund details**

Kung kayo ang kinatawan o authorized representative ng registered customer, dalhin ang:
a. **Current bill na may refund details**
b. **Authorization letter** na pirmado ng registered customer at kung saan nakasulat ang inyong pangalan bilang kinatawan o representative
c. **Isang (1) valid ID ng registered customer** na may litrato at pirma
d. **Dalawang (2) valid ID ninyo** (bilang kinatawan o authorized representative)
e. **Xerox copy ng mga sumusunod:**
Dalawang (2) valid ID ninyo
Isang (1) valid ID ng registered customer
Current bill na may refund details

Maari na ring dalhin ang mga sumusunod bilang valid ID na may litrato at pirma ninyo:
a. **Philhealth ID**
b. **Senior Citizen's ID**
c. **Postal ID**
d. **Firearm's License**
e. **Original NBI Clearance**
f. **Credit Card**

May ibang paraan pa ba para makuha ang refund?
Kung ayaw ninyong maabala at pumila pa sa refund center, ibabayad pa rin sa inyo ang halaga ng refund. Ibabawas ang halaga ng refund sa mga susunod ninyong electric bills.

Ito na ba ang huling refund?
Hindi pa. Lahat ng mga Meralco customer ay makakakuha ng refund. Para sa mga hindi pa nakakakuha ng refund ng June at nitong September to December 2003, abangan lang po ang aming abiso sa mga susunod na electric bills, print ads at announcements.



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100 YEARS ONWARD MERALCO "1903-2003

Baguio salad fest draws lean crowd

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—What is arguably the world's largest tossed salad set a record of sorts on its third annual serving for drawing its smallest crowd since 2001.

The annual Baguio Tossed Salad Festival was held on Saturday with a lean attendance of 3,000 guests and salad lovers, including 300 public elementary school pupils, at the Baguio Athletic Bowl.

A scheduling mix-up attributed to the city government dislodged festival organizers from the Baguio charter anniversary activities lineup and from the Baguio Convention Center, where a book fair organized by the Vision and Foresight International (VFI) for the Foundation for Support of the United Nations (FFS-UN), was held until Sunday.

Because of the booking errors, "we have decided not to break anymore records this year," said Jeannine Chan, president of the Baguio Association of Hotels and Inns (Bahai), the festival organizers.

World record

Gerry Beltran, Bahai vice president, understated their disappointment by stressing that the festival "could have been better."

The festival was launched with extensive marketing and fanfare on Sept. 16, 2001, as a Baguio Day activity. It opened its doors to some 5,000 people from the city, Pangasinan, La Union, Bulacan and Metro Manila.

Bahai launched it to break the Guinness World Record for the biggest tossed garden salad, which belongs to Salt Lake City in Utah for having fed 1,000 people with Caesar's salad.

The 2001 feat, however, was not officially recognized by Guinness because of documentation problems.

The second tossed salad that was served last year beat Bahai's record when organizers managed to serve more than 12,800 people.

Organizers for this year's event developed a weeklong festival that climaxed on Saturday with the 1,200-kilogram tossed salad displayed in a 10-meter-by-20-meter bowl.

Chef Paul Poblador served this latest giant bowl of Benguet-grown lettuce, carrots and cucumbers and offered guests a choice between a special dressing made of mustard and mountain honey and Thousand Islands.

But forced to serve the salad in an open-air environment, Bahai had to contend with a small section of the Athletic Bowl where they set up a stage covered by three parachute-sized tents. Musical artists Jeremiah, Tootsie Guevarra and the rap group Kamandag ng Marikina performed to a crowd of cheering students and guests.

Around the stage, Bahai displayed several sculptures carved out of vegetables. The most notable was a diorama of an Ifugao hut carved by Baguio university students.

Preparations

The students cooked and molded sweet potatoes to shape the hut. Gelatin was chilled to form a creek surrounding the hut, while turnip flowers dipped in food flavoring framed the diorama. Hidden inside the hut is an Ifugao flutist carved from turnip.

The organizers also installed a rock-climbing wall near the giant salad bowl to draw interest.

But right outside the Athletic Bowl, tourists and park habitues were unaware that the world's largest salad was on display there.

Beltran said Bahai continued serving food until 7 p.m. despite a strong rain late afternoon Saturday.

"We can say we served 7,000 people by the number of serving bowls consumed but it is also likely people already here just came back for more servings. We don't have a scientific basis for counting the number of people who joined the festival this year," he said.

ROUNDUP

Drug pushers fall

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—Lawmen arrested over the weekend four suspected members of a syndicate called the Big 4 Drug Pushers which is operating in Calamba City. Police identified the suspects as Celso Satuitoalia, 35; Nicomedes Arban, 40, both of Calamba; Apolonio Tan, 36, of Cabuyao town; and Dante Ramos, 40, a bus conductor, of San Juan, Batangas. Sr. Supt. Cipriano E. Querol Jr., chief of the Regional Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, said the lawmen confiscated shabu, drug paraphernalia and the marked money used in the operation dubbed "Oplan Big Berta." *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Councilman killed

TANAUAN CITY—Two unidentified armed men shot dead a barangay councilman who was facing administrative and criminal cases, including drug pushing, in Barangay 1 Poblacion of this town on Monday. Village councilman Bernardo Javier, 34, was on his way home when he was shot with .45 cal. pistols in different parts of the body. He died on the spot. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Trader kills farmer

SAN LUIS, Batangas—After a heated argument, a businessman shot dead a farmer in Barangay Bonliw in this town on Oct. 5. The victim, Rudy Iranzo, 47, of Barangay Sto. Tomas, this town, was shot in the face by the suspect, identified as Solan Cuasay, 33. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Mindoro investments

CALAPAN CITY—Several companies, even those based abroad, have expressed interest in investing in Mindoro Oriental, including major projects of the provincial government, according to Antonio Matias Lubi, executive director of the Manila-based Mindoro Development Coordinating Office. St. Michael Bus Line Co., for instance, has applied for a franchise to field 20 units on the Manila-Roxas town route before the yearend. Korean and Singaporean shipping companies also intend to ply the Batangas-Calapan sea route. Great Adventure Management Services also coordinated for the launch of the first Puerto Carrera Adventure Race, Lubi said. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Day care center in capitol

CALAPAN CITY—The day care center inside the capitol now has two teachers handling 60 children. Thirty of the children, aged 3-4, are in the morning class, while the rest, aged 5-6, are in the afternoon class. Children are taught basic knowledge like writing and counting. The center is also a venue for socialization, values formation and preparation of the children for kindergarten. The Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office established the center in 1997 to help parents who are employed by the provincial government. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Improving labor relations

CALAPAN CITY—The Oriental Mindoro Provincial Tripartite Industrial Peace Council (PTIPC) is stepping up efforts to improve relations between management and labor in order to reduce dispute cases brought to the Department of Labor and Employment. The PTIPC made the move during its general assembly at the provincial capitol on Sept. 24. It aims to mend relations between management and labor through dialogues. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Shabu session busted

TANAUAN CITY—Lawmen arrested several persons, including a former police personnel and a mayor's bodyguard, while sniffing shabu in Barangay 4 here on Monday. Arrested were former PO1 Gabriel Mendoza, 43, of Barangay Bagongbayan; Gregorio Tapia, 37, chief security officer of Malvar Mayor Tita Reyes, of Barangay Pagaspas; Manuel Magtibay, 29, of Barangay 6; Leonides Guevarra, 23, tricycle driver, of Barangay Pagaspas; Antonio Depas, 38, of Barangay 3 Poblacion; Leonardo Cosiga; and Joel Ortiz, 29, of Barangay San Roque, Sto. Tomas. Police confiscated shabu, shabu paraphernalia and a .45 cal. pistol from Mendoza, a 9-mm pistol from Tapia, and a pointed steel instrument from Cosiga. The operation was meant to bag two suspected drug pushers—Ma. Elly Villapando, 41, a beautician, and Michael Micua, of Barangay 4 Poblacion. *Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Third force movement ...

From page A1

marginalization as they are increasingly being quashed between two dominant coalitions—one represented by Lakas centered on the president, and another, an opposition coalition that is still in search of a center of gravity.

Neither Roco, Guingona nor Reporma share a cementing issue, except their criticism of the President's governance. Of course, Guingona has packaged issues such as preservation of the national patrimony in the hands of Filipinos, anti-Americanism, political reforms to reduce corruption and economic incentives to help small and medium enterprises.

On the corruption issue, all the three echo the same tune on corruption as Sen. Panfilo Lacson, as well as Sen. Gregorio Honasan and his young cohorts of Magdalo who staged a failed coup attempt on July 27.

Base too narrow

Historically, Filipino middle classes are the constituency of third force movements in the post-independence period of the two-party system. In each election, however, their hope for a breakthrough of this movement whose electoral base is too narrow has always been disappointed, because they have failed to identify themselves with aspirations for a better life of the masses which constitute the majority of Filipino voters.

Philippine politics has never wanted for a third force since independence. Guingona, Roco and those who are having delusions over the formation of a third force are swimming against the historical tide that has sunk third force movements.

The two-party system structure that dominated the process of presidential nominations since independence may have been demolished by Marcos' single party dictatorship, but the party system, informal as it is today, is increasingly retracing the mold of a face-off between two major party formations, albeit no longer reconstituting the old Nacionalista-Liberal rivalry.

Such third force notables as Guingona, Recto, et al. are neither exciting or charismatic to draw people flocking to their banners proclaiming tired issues. The third force movement in this country, which has appealed mainly to the middle class, has never mobilized masses as a vehicle to storm the ramparts of corruption or of the conservative political establishment.

The third force's record for mass mobilization is as dismal as that of the coup d'état—a middle-class exercise, driven by the middle-class military elite. Corruption, which is being highlighted by the third force adherents and which is also the stock in trade of the legal opposition, has no meaning to the poor who have become cynical that no matter who is at the helm of the government, their lot has not improved.

Jobs, jobs, jobs

What is more important to the poor, as indicated by a series of public opinion surveys, is not corruption—although it has been demonstrated by systematic research that corruption is anti-poor in effect because it transfers wealth away from the poor to the already rich.

What their primary concern is can be spelled in a few words—jobs, jobs, jobs. Any presidential candidate who can present a program focused on job creation and incomes can win a larger electoral constituency. Unfortunately. Not a single presidential aspirant, including President Macapagal, has cut out a program centered on jobs, and not one of those who are offering themselves as alternatives has presented a jog-creation platform and has gone beyond the tiresome mantra of corruption. The central issue in this campaign is jobs, meaning the economy, and the third force, to catch fire, has to offer something more innovative than their fixation on corruption.

The history of the third force movement in this country is a sad one, marked by a chain of failures. The brilliant Claro Recto, in tandem with Lorenzo Tañada in the 1950s, tried to break the grip of the two-party system on a third force ticket running on nationalism.

They landed at the tail-end not because they lacked the intellectual qualities and the integrity expected of a presidency, but because the masses could not identify with nationalism.

Elitist-led issue

Nationalism was an elitist-led issue, that only benefited the vested landed and economic interests that sought to transfer control of the economy from foreigners to Filipino economic and social elite.

Thus, Carlos Garcia's "Filipino First" campaign did not save him from defeat from the mass-oriented and populist Diosdado Macapagal.

The masses never benefited from nationalism whose expression was protectionism for Filipino enterprises against alien competition. So, they could not relate to Recto, Tañada and now Guingona, who likes to present himself as the new champion of nationalism and anti-Americanism, had better take a lesson from the failed nationalist campaigns of his illustrious models of the 1950s.

Other third force movements, particularly the Progressive Party of the Philippines that put up Raul Manglapus and Manuel Manahan as presidential and vice presidential candidates in the 1960s, found to their grief that running on the elitist theme of middle-class political reforms—clean and honest government—had no resonance to the poor and the masses.

The outstanding example of a campaign emphasizing anti-corruption and clean and honest government that succeeded was that of Ramon Magsaysay, who decisively defeated President Elpidio Quirino, in the 1950s, on the issue of corruption.

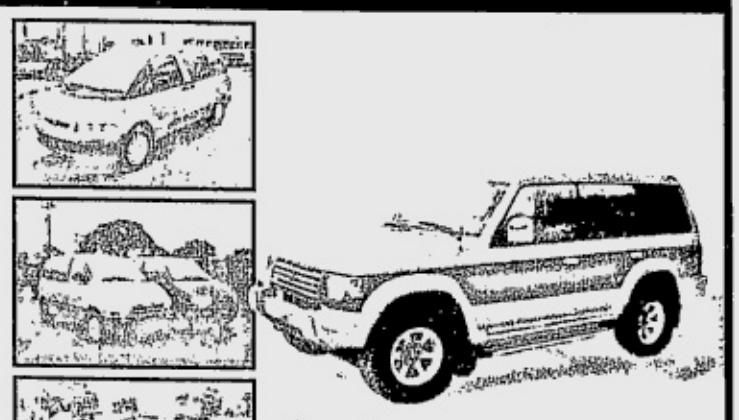
Major party needed

My argument is that middle-class issues such as corruption can fly but they require the vehicle of a major party. Let me point out that Magsaysay ran on the ticket of a major party, the Nacionalista Party, not as a third force messiah. Middle-class issues have a better chance of achieving electoral success if they are carried by a major party or alliance.

From the pronouncements of Guingona, Roco and third force adherents—including so-called civil society do-gooders—I do not see these issues catching fire to mobilize mass support for a third force. Thus, their movement is doomed to fail.

It is not difficult to foresee their fate being crushed by major alignments.

MICROVAN



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Ma. Dita Bojico, Bacolod City
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Magdalena Letran, Negros Occidental
Jose Manuel Joplo, Negros Occidental
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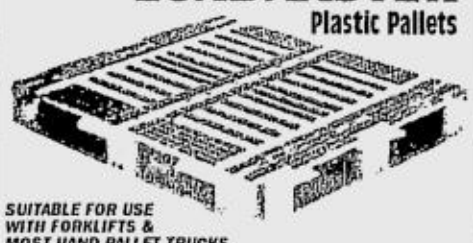

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CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
S E N A T E
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AN OPEN LETTER TO THE JUDGES AND THE PERSONNEL OF THE VARIOUS COURTS

Press reports in the papers blame me for the delay.

The truth of the matter is that pride stands in the way of an early approval. Returning the bill to the Bicameral Conference Committee is the solution but this is offensive to pride of some Senators.

The approval of the bill could come in a matter of hours if we return it to the Bicameral Conference Committee. I stood on the floor of the Senate for two days now to precisely seek a return of the report to the Bicameral Conference Committee for the following changes:

1. THE INCREASE IN PAY OF THE COURT EMPLOYEES. The Judges are being selfish in not espousing the cause of those on whom the efficiency of their Courts depend.

2. PROHIBIT ALLOWANCES FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. The Constitution mandates that the Courts shall enjoy fiscal autonomy. The concept of fiscal autonomy is explained in Bengzon v. Drilon (GR No. 103524, 15 April 1992. 208 SCRA 133):

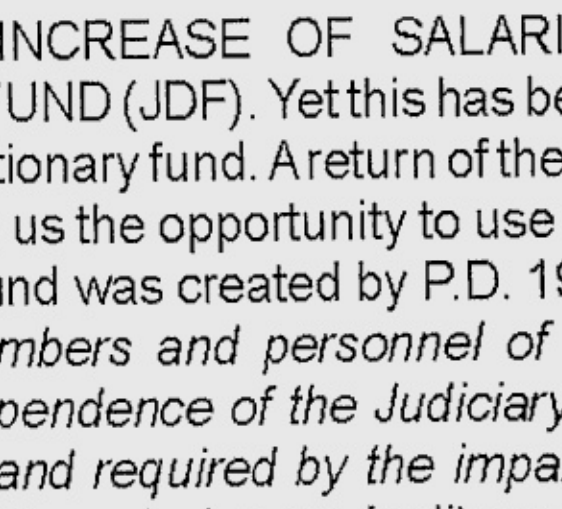
> *"Fiscal autonomy means freedom from outside control. The Judiciary...must have the independence and flexibility needed in the discharge of [its] constitutional duties."*

Yet a situation exists where the very fabric of the independence of the Judiciary is undermined by the grant of allowances by local governments to the Judges in their jurisdictions. These are coercive and corrupting influences on the Judges since the allowances are discretionary and not mandatory. In Section 8 of the Senate version of the bill we sought to eliminate the corrupting influence. This provision was deleted. The bill if returned to the Bicameral Conference Committee can be corrected and the provision restored.

3. THE PROPER SOURCE OF THE INCREASE OF SALARIES SHOULD BE THE JUDICIARY DEVELOPMENT FUND (JDF). Yet this has been isolated by the Chief Justice and used like a discretionary fund. A return of the bill to the Bicameral Conference Committee can give us the opportunity to use the funds from the JDF. The Judicial Development Fund was created by P.D. 1949 precisely for the purpose of *"benefit of the members and personnel of the Judiciary to help ensure and guarantee the independence of the Judiciary as mandated by the Constitution and public policy and required by the impartial administration of justice."* There are unflattering Commission on Audit reports year after year on the use of the JDF. There is an ongoing Congressional investigation on the JDF.

A few days' delay is a small prize to pay for securing a justly deserved compensation increase for all court personnel and the strengthening of the Judiciary at the local level and freeing it from the coercive and corrupting influence of unscrupulous local government officials.

October 9, 2003.



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Senator

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'If we live as victims, then the terrorists have beaten us'

From page A1

the attack lit 22 candles at a small pool of remembrance. They came from across the world, including Brazil, South Africa, Portugal, the United States, South Korea, Australia and Indonesia.

The ceremony comes amid fresh terror fears in the world's most populous Muslim nation. Bali's police chief Inspector General I Made Mangku Pastika warned Saturday that militants linked to the Bali blasts still possessed two bombs, and were becoming more adept at avoiding police detection.

As the mourners left the cathedral-like amphitheater hewed out of a limestone hill, they passed photos of all the dead. Families of victims and survivors wept and embraced each other as they cast frangipani leaves into the pool of remembrance to end the service.

Guitarist John Williamson played Waltzing Matilda, Australia's unofficial anthem.

"It's just so disappointing to see all the people who lost their lives. I can't get over it. They were just here for a good time," said Lincoln Filimaua, who lost his sister in the attacks.

Indonesian Security Minister Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono vowed that Jakarta, which has been accused of being soft on terrorism, would bring to justice those still wanted in the attack.

"These diabolical men and their friends of evil simply have no place in our society," he said. "They belong in our darkest dungeon."

Yudhoyono's words gave solace to Simon Quayle, 34, coach of the Kingsley Cats Australian rules football club which lost seven members.

"I thought the Indonesian fella's words were very comforting ... They (Indonesians) have done a wonderful job. They're our brothers now, so it's great," Quayle said, an Australian flag draped over his shoulder.

Hundreds of police guarded the Garuda Wisnu Cultural Park, where the ceremony was held. The complex, dominated by huge statues of the Hindu God Wisnu and the mythical Garuda bird, overlooks the tourist playground of Jimbaran beach.

Unlike the rest of mostly Muslim Indonesia, Bali is mainly Hindu.

Bali Gov. Dewa Made Beratha earlier said that Hindus would not normally commemorate the anniversary of a death because of their belief in reincarnation. Conspicuously absent at the service was Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri.

Later Sunday, Howard laid a wreath at a monument erected at the bomb site in the bustling Kuta tourist strip. As he left the area, around 100 Australians chanted soccer-style, "Aussie, Aussie, Aussie, Oi! Oi! Oi!"

The bombings triggered feelings of nationalism in many Australians, who have compared it to the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

Australia, which lost 88 citizens in the bombings, organized the ceremony despite travel warnings by its government advising citizens to avoid Indonesia because of the risk of more terror attacks.

Megawati

Indonesian officials said Megawati could not attend, or hold talks with Howard as he had proposed, because she had to receive Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika that day. They also said the Balinese had already finished their traditional mourning period.

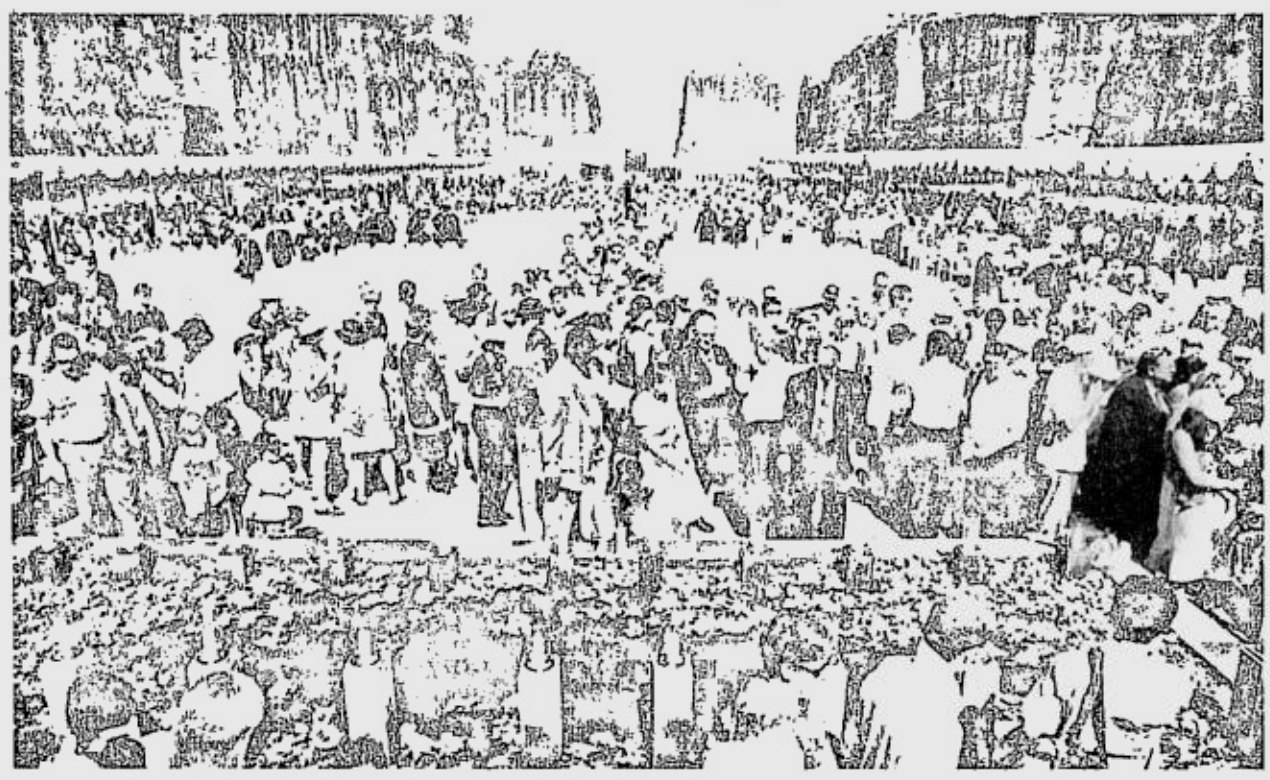
On Sunday morning, Megawati was in North Sulawesi at a bridge inauguration. But an Indonesian said Megawati would not meet her Algerian counterpart until Monday.

Just before 11 p.m. on Oct. 12, 2002, a dark Mitsubishi L300 minivan packed with 50 kilograms of explosives pulled in front of the Sari Club. An Indonesian later identified as Iqbal strolled into Paddy's wearing a bomb concealed in a vest—in what would be the first known suicide bombing in Indonesian history.

The initial bomb at Paddy's sent the crowd scrambling into the street and toward the Sari Club. Many who died in the second, much larger explosion were fleeing the first one.

Since the Bali attack, police have arrested 35 defendants and convicted 21 for their role in the terror attack, including three sentenced to death and one to life in jail. Fourteen more remain to be tried.

The Jemaah Islamiyah, which allegedly has cells across Southeast Asia, has also been blamed for the Aug. 5 car bombing of the JW Marriott Hotel in Jakarta that killed 12 people and for a series of earlier bombings across Indonesia. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*



FAMILY members and relatives queue to place flowers during a program to commemorate the first anniversary of the Bali bombings. EPA

Militants ready US flags for fiery offering

From page A1

Holed up since Saturday in a Quezon City apartment making these flags for the fiery offering are members of militant peasant, fisherfolk and urban poor groups. Unlike the Oakwood mutineers, they told the INQUIRER, they could not afford made-to-order flags.

As of noontime yesterday, the group had silk-screened around 40 pieces, each a perfect copy of Old Glory with seven red stripes and 50 stars on a blue field—except they're not silk but cheesecloth, the usual material for protest rally props.

Jim Fernando, spokesperson of the Kilusang Mag-bubukid ng Pilipinas, said "all resources and efforts" for the flags meant to literally go up in smoke had been provided by the militant sectors.

He said the workers were confident that by today, or tomorrow, they would finish all the flags they needed.

Aside from the KMP, groups with members sweating it out in the QC apartment are Anak Pawis, Pamalakaya and Amihan.

Looking up from one of the yard-and-a-half long banners, a KMP member quipped, "We're used to this, working hard for something just to see it turn to ashes. So it's all right."

But if police snatched the flags before the protest action, he said, "Now, that would hurt."

Due to "time constraints," Bush will not be able to shake hands with all 240 lawmakers when he goes to Congress, according to Senate President Franklin Drilon.

The good news is, there will be "no physical frisking" of the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate, a security aspect that sent congressional blood pressures through the roof a few days ago.

This was apparently among several matters that had to be straightened out between Drilon and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone regarding the big day.

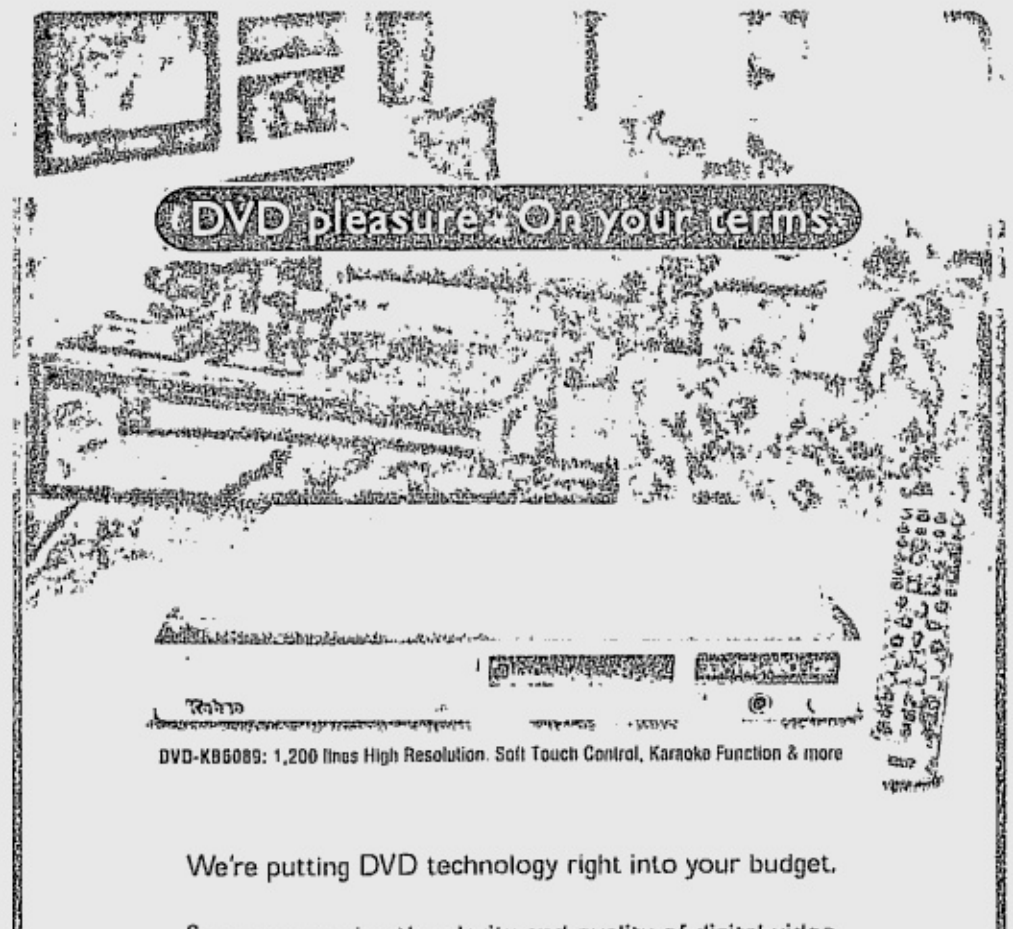
Soothing slightly bruised egos, Drilon said yesterday in an interview: "It will be basically a function of security elements of Congress."

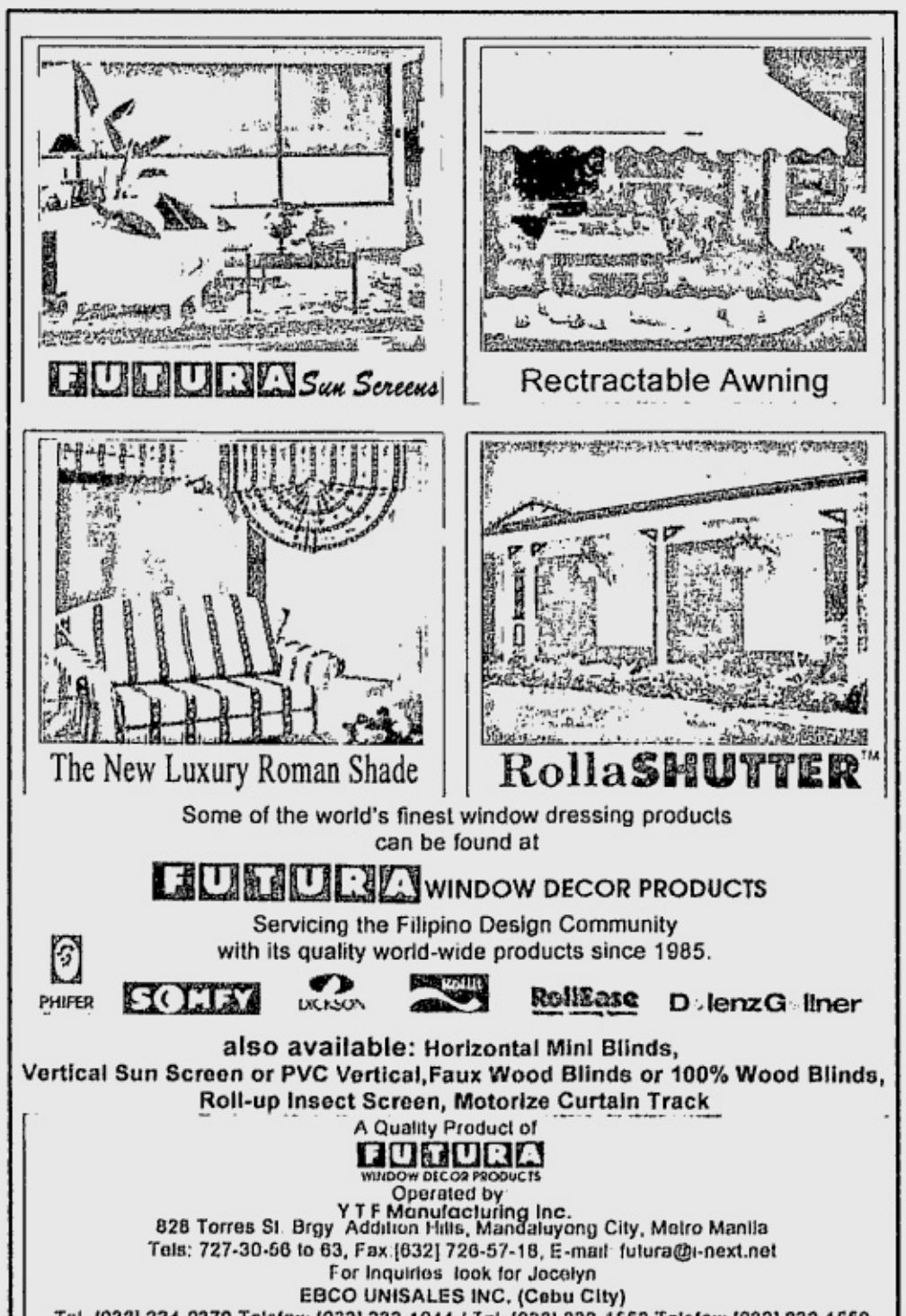
In short, "The US Secret Service will not take over."

Speaking of good manners, an administration congressman has suggested adopting a "code of conduct" for protesters and anti-riot police.

Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri said rules of engagement should be set in advance, or else "all hell will break loose the moment the irresistible force meets the immovable object."

He did not say which side was which.





PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2003

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

SUERTRES 9 6 4 (In exact order)

SUPERLOTTO 6/49 2 4 15 32 36 49

METRO

Housing, education among kids' wishes

By Tarra Quismundo

IT WAS more than just the usual Sunday picnic for some 200 children at the Rizal Park yesterday.

The children, aged 2 to 17, staged a field demonstration to commemorate the International Children's Month, holding up placards and banners that spelled out their wishes to the government: education, housing and health services.

With the country's relief map behind them, the underprivileged kids, all members of the Salinlahi Foundation Inc., even called the government's attention to the nation's concerns, and condemned the visit of United States President George W. Bush on Saturday.

"The Arroyo administration is spending at least P10 million for Bush's eight-hour visit, while there is no concrete program for children even at the barangay level," said Carlos Padolina, secretary general of Salinlahi, an alliance of organizations that addresses children's concerns.

Problems of a 10-year-old

Such concerns were put across through songs and statements from the kids, who came from different urban poor communities in Metro Manila.

Mary Joy Odal, 10, a grade 4 student from Katuparan Housing Project in Vitas, Tondo, Manila, spoke of her experience as one of the Vitas residents in danger of being evicted from their home of three years.

Odal, the eldest of four children, said in an interview that she, her siblings, and mother, may have to return to their former home—the streets.

Her mother, a laundrywoman, was separated from her father last year.

She said residents of the housing project only have one month before they will have to leave.

Just like her neighbors, Odal and her family hopes that the government will award the homes to them.

For Emmani Velarde, a 16-year-old who, since childhood, has been in a wheelchair, finishing school is her goal.

But Velarde, who was born without the ability to walk, is now out of school.

After graduating from elementary, she was never admitted to the high schools she applied to.

Not allowed to go to school

"The schools did not let me enroll because I will not be able to go up the stairs, and there were subjects that were held in the upper floors of the school," said Velarde, who aspires to become a writer someday.

Her free time is spent on writing stories and poems, among which was a piece entitled "Kabataan."

In the poem, Velarde wrote of the youth's abilities and fighting spirit.

Velarde also hopes for more tuition subsidy from the government.

In a statement, Salinlahi said that the government budget for the Bush visit could have been spent on 62 classrooms for students who are crammed in public schools.

Speaking on behalf of 17 million underprivileged children, Salinlahi yesterday said that President Macapagal-Arroyo does not deserve to be called the nation's mother, much less get another chance to become head of state in 2004.

PARTY ON
Residents, students and government workers, turn out in their most colorful costumes, performing songs and dances to mark Quezon City Day at the QC Memorial Circle. RUDY ESPERAS

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Cops sweat it out for fitness test

DON'T be surprised if you see lawmen in shorts or jogging pants doing Taebo routines to the latest beat inside police headquarters. They are just following orders.

And to find out who among our policemen are fit, the National Capital Region Police Office will conduct a Physical Fitness Test for all policemen in the metropolis tomorrow.

In the test, lawmen will be required to do push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups and sprints. Those who will fail the test will be required to undergo months of re-training and crash diet courses.

In a statement, NCRPO Director Reynaldo Velasco urged policemen to maintain a "healthy lifestyle anchored on an effective physical fitness program."

He also said that the police should get rid of the "demeaning stereotype of pot-bellied cops" who, in times of pursuit operations, "are left behind by sprinting criminals."

The Northern Police District has adopted the training program. Twice a week, bystanders are treated to the sight of lawmen in jogging pants or shorts doing Taebo steps and dance routines in front of the NPD headquarters.

A loudspeaker is set up playing upbeat and contemporary dance music. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

In Valenzuela, scholars do well in jail

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

BEHIND bars, Valenzuela City inmates have a new lease in learning.

With the city government's Non-formal Education Accreditation and Equivalency program, inmates and parolees can now get basic education even in jail.

Program coordinator Baby Herrera told the INQUIRER last Wednesday that at least 20 inmates and 15 parolees have enrolled in the program.

Classes, which run for about six months, are held three times a week in a small classroom inside the city jail.

Valenzuela City officials have already put up 26 learning centers in the city's different barangays, aside from the one at the city jail.

Under the program, the "instructional managers" or teachers would determine the level of academic competency of volunteer "learners" or students.

After determining the level of education of a volunteer, the learner would undergo a six-month course fit for the person.

After the course, the learner would be asked to answer examination modules designed by the Department of Education.

If he or she passes the examination, say for an elementary course, the learner would be accredited to take the next formal academic level, in this instance, high school.

The program for the city jail's inmates and parolees is the latest to be established.

Herrera said that she is happy to see how the program has changed the lives of many learners.

She cited the case of Michael Gagahasin, 21, who was jailed six years ago for charges of rape.

Last week, Gagahasin bested 25 other top learners and became the champion of the program's 2nd General Information Quiz Bee.

Gagahasin's passion for learning has brought his plight to the city officials' attention. Herrera said they would coordinate with the court handling Gagahasin's case to verify the status of his case.

Herrera said Gagasahin claimed he was just framed up for the crime.

She said Gagasahin was jailed when he was just 15, when he should have been placed in the custody of the city's social welfare department.

But Herrera said she was glad to see how proud Gagahasin was when he won the championship and how the learning program had instilled hope among the inmates, who remain uncertain about their future behind bars.

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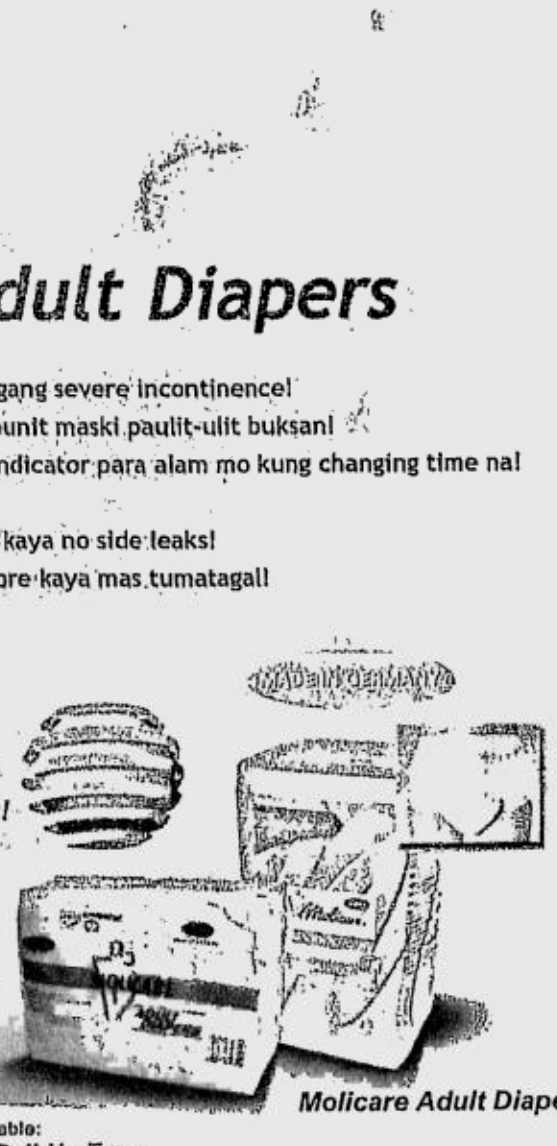

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METROBRIEFS

Daring robbers

STREET robbers are getting braver and bolder. Yesterday morning in Antipolo City, four men armed with knives held up PO1 Johnny Mahilom of the Central Police District Batasan Station while walking on his way from work at 2:45 a.m. and took his Nokia 3310 cell phone. The suspects even mauled Mahilon before dumping him at the corner of Sumulong Highway and Marcos Highway. A tricycle driver took the policeman to a hospital for treatment of injuries in the head and face. *Edson Tandoc Jr.*

Sta. Mesa heist

EDSEL Basilio felt something was wrong when a woman gave him P500 as payment for P30 worth of pre-paid electronic load. "I already knew that something was going on because of the look on their faces," Basilio said in a phone interview, right after four men and a woman robbed his store at 5:50 p.m. on Saturday. Basilio, 32, said he lost P150,000 worth of cell phone cards and cash to the robbers. The robbers wanted to know where Basilio kept his money. "I told my helper to just give the change immediately," he said. Basilio said he then went out of his store on Vigan Street, Sta. Mesa, Manila, and tried to call for help from workmen at a construction site nearby. But two suspects fired shots, prompting him to run away. The robbers then ransacked the store before they fled in a taxi. *Tarra Quismundo*

Death on McKinley

A STUDENT died after his black Honda Accord car slammed into an Acacia tree on McKinley Road in Makati City yesterday morning. Police said Jose Ma. Luis Lagdameo, 18, of Narra Street, South Forbes Park, was driving home at around 2 a.m. when he lost control of his vehicle after he turned right on McKinley Road from Edsa, said investigator SPO2 Orlando De Leon. In his attempt to regain control of the vehicle, Lagdameo breached the road gutter and slammed into the tree. Motorists in the area pried Lagdameo from the crumpled vehicle and brought the unconscious victim to the Ospital ng Makati. However, he was declared dead on arrival, police said. *Alcuin Papa*

3 DAYS BEFORE BUSH VISIT

Naia traffic to be rerouted

By Alcuin Papa

MOTORISTS going to southern parts of Metro Manila and residents living near the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) should brace themselves for traffic jams in the area this week.

Naia General Manager Edgardo Manda told the INQUIRER yesterday that they are poised to reroute traffic on roads leading to the airport three days before the visit of US President George W. Bush to the country on Oct. 18.

Manda said beginning Wednesday, traffic will be routed along the so-called "Three Fingers," or the three roads leading to and from the Naia.

These roads are the MIA Road, the Ninoy Aquino Road, and the Domestic Road.

"Vehicles going to the airport will be allowed to proceed. However, vehicles passing through will have to be rerouted. Residents of villages near the airport will have to take longer routes," Manda said.

He added that the rerouting was necessary to effect strict security measures for the arrival of Bush. "We will have to restrain the movement of vehicles for better security."

Among the affected areas will be the Multinational Village, Sucat Road, Quirino Avenue and the Baclaran area.

Manda said they would also add checkpoints along the three roads to augment the checkpoints already in place. These will be manned by composite teams.

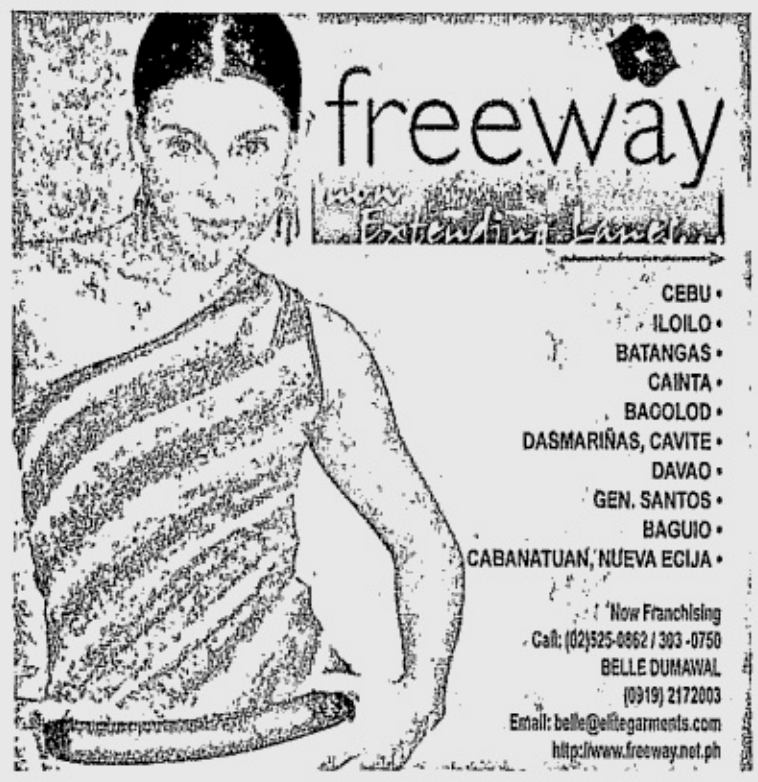
He added they would be releasing a rerouting map to media and the public so that motorists can be guided accordingly.

Meanwhile, expect to see more policemen inside malls and transport terminals.

The entire Metro Manila police force is under a continuous heightened security alert amid the renewed threats of terrorism and the scheduled visit of Bush.

Aside from uniformed policemen deployed in vital areas like shopping malls, terminals, embassies and government buildings, the National Capital Region Police Office would also deploy policemen in civilian clothes to secure various establishments in the metropolis.

Additional K-9 teams were also tasked to regularly inspect key areas in Metro Manila, including the Light Rail Transit stations. *With a report from Edson Tandoc Jr.*



'Placenta baby' needs help

A PREMATURE child is now fighting for her life at the Chinese General Hospital.

Baby Girl Tamaray, born to couple Alma and Jose Tamaray, 30, of Barangay Bago Bantay, Quezon City, was placed inside an incubator with a ventilator machine attached to her weak body due to a series of oxygen desaturation.

Her health would continue to deteriorate if proper medical attention is not given. She remains in an unstable condition.

Despite the child's episodic desaturation, the Tamaray couple is hopeful they would survive God's challenge, and therefore, they are knocking on the hearts of good people who could offer them prayers and help.

The couple wanted to see the child alive. But they said they could no longer shoulder the high costs of medicine.

Alma, 28, was earlier admitted to CGH due to vaginal bleeding caused by an inverted placenta, prompting her attending physicians to recommend Caesarian operation on Sept. 29.

"The baby was born weak and afflicted with Hyaline membrane disease, oxygen desaturation and had jaundice," said Dr. Christine Teh, attending specialist.

People who may be interested to help can call the hospital direct for more information.

ABS-CBN bags 32 Star Awards

By Marinel R. Cruz

AFTER an absence of eight years from the Philippine Movie Press Club Star Awards for Television, ABS-CBN came back with a vengeance.

The television network won 32 awards, including the coveted award for best balanced programming during a glittering ceremony held Saturday night at the UP Theater in Diliman, Quezon City.

Its rival network, GMA 7, went home with only 13 trophies after winning the most number of awards last year.

ABS-CBN had stopped joining the PMPC Star Awards for TV in 1995, reportedly because the award for best balanced programming had always been given to GMA 7.

"I think we made a statement when we decided not to join (Star Awards) for eight years," Charo Santos-Concio, ABS-CBN executive vice president for entertainment, had said in an earlier interview. "We did it in the interest of fair play."

Santos-Concio led the group of triumphant ABS-CBN talents by winning the best drama anthology award for her 12-year-old weekly program "Maalaala Mo Kaya."

Edu Manzano was also one of the night's biggest winners. He bagged four awards—best morning show award for "Magandang Umaga Bayan," best musical variety show award for "ASAP Mania," best comedy show for "OK, Fine, Whatever" and best morning show host, along with Tintin Bersola, Erwin Tulfo, Ogie Diaz, et al., for "Magandang Umaga Bayan."

CONCIO: Winner for best drama anthology. RUDY ESPERAS

Edu's son, Luis Philip Manzano, brought home the best new male TV personality award for "ASAP Mania." Valerie Concepcion, however, won as best new female TV personality for her work on GMA 7's show "Click."

Kris Aquino, who arrived with "Morning Girls" co-host Korina Sanchez almost two hours after the show had started, picked up her second best game show host trophy for "Game KNB?," which also won the best game show prize.

Kris' co-host in "The Buzz," Boy Abunda, won his eighth best male showbiz-oriented show host trophy, while Cristy Fermin won her sixth as best female showbiz-oriented show host.

"The Buzz" snatched the best showbiz-oriented show honors from "Star Talk" this year.

Korina also won the best female newscaster award for "TV Patrol," this year's best news program. Julius Babao beat veteran broadcasters Mike Enriquez and Henry Omaga-Diaz as best male newscaster this year.

Karen Davila and her team of reporters also brought home two awards that night—best magazine show host and best magazine show for "The Correspondents"—breaking GMA 7's nine-year winning streak with programs like "Jessica Soho Reports" "Probe Team" and "Brigada Siete."

Ai-Ai de las Alas ("Whattamen"/ABS-CBN) received her fifth best comedy actress award, while Vic Sotto was heralded this year's best comedy actor for his work on "Daddy Di Do Du" on GMA 7. Vic's brother, Sen. Tito Sotto, accepted the trophy for him.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, October 13, 2003
28th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Rom 1:1-7
Gospel: Lk 11:29-32

As the crowd increased, Jesus began to speak in this way, "People of the present time are evil people. They ask for a sign, but no sign will be given to them except the sign of Jonah. As Jonah became a sign for the people of Nineveh, so will the Son of Man be a sign for this generation. The Queen of the South will rise up on Judgment Day with the people of these times and accuse them, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and here there is greater than Solomon. The people of Nineveh will rise up on Judgment Day with the people of these times and accuse them, for Jonah's preaching made them turn from their sins, and here there is greater than Jonah."

Commentary

"Paul, servant of Jesus Christ, an apostle called and set apart for God's Good News." We all carry identification cards. For Paul his identification card is very clear: Paul, servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God. Paul knew his boss: Jesus Christ and his status is servant and apostle of Jesus with a clear mission: spread of the gospel of God. And he lived up to this identity and mission despite the many hardships and obstacles. Towards the end of his life, he said: "As for me the time of sacrifice has arrived, and the moment of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race. I have kept the faith." (2 Tim 4:6-7) What is our most important identity? Are we living up to this identity?

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RECORD SET

San Miguel rips Alaska

SAN Miguel Beer literally didn't need a free throw to beat Alaska Milk last night.

The Beermen did the unthinkable when they posted a 75-58 victory over the Aces without the benefit of a single try from the stripe in the Samsung PBA Reinforced Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Beermen not taking a single attempt from the free throw line and still winning was a first in league history. The previous record for fewest attempts from the stripe was one by Shell against San Miguel.

"Rare record *'yun. Walang* free throw *tapos nanalo pa* (It's a rare record. No free throws made but we still won)," said SMB coach Jong Uichico.

With both teams shooting poorly at the start, the Beermen got the better of the breaks as they found their range late in the second period to pull away, 33-23, at the half.

SMB and Alaska struggled anew with their execution in the third but the Beermen started hitting their shots late in that quarter to stretch the lead anew, 56-39, going into the fourth.

The Aces closed to within 10 points midway through the fourth but the Beermen easily quashed the uprising.

With the victory, the Beermen improved to 4-6 in Group A, while the Aces dropped to 3-5.

Olsen Racela drilled in a triple and Kwan Johnson added another one for the Beermen, before six straight points courtesy of Danny Ildefonso and Dondon Hontiveros put SMB to its biggest margin, 75-56, 1:43 to play.

San Miguel made just 36 percent of its shots in the first half but roared to a 10-point lead largely because the Aces could do no better from the floor, making just 28 percent there.

Johnson finished with 33 points and 13 rebounds while Hontiveros had 14 points on seven-of-12 shooting from the field.

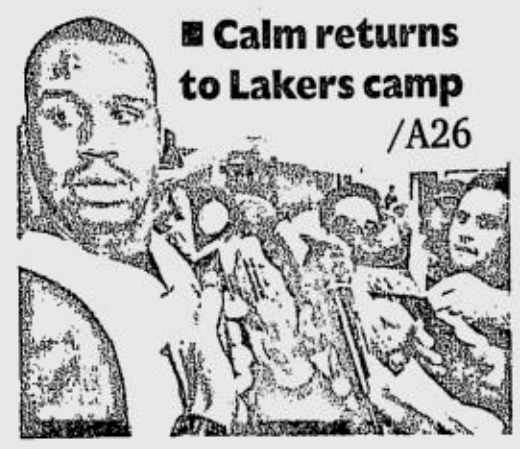
Sta. Lucia Realty spanked Purefoods, 93-84, in the last game and pulled away in Group A with a 6-3 tally. Purefoods fell to 1-8.

Scores:

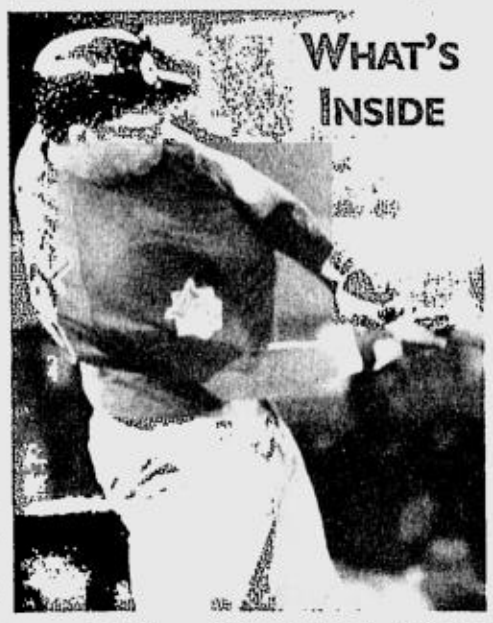
SAN MIGUEL 75—Johnson 33, Hontiveros 14, Racela 9, Ildefonso 6, Peña 4, Belasco 3, Gahol 2, Mente 2, Victoria 2, Gamboa 0.

ALASKA 58—Fontaine 20, Arigo 18, Peek 7, Allado 5, Duat 4, Cortez 2, Feihl 2, Padilla 0, Cablay 0, Tejada 0, Noble 0.

Quarters: 15-12, 33-23, 56-39, 75-58.



■ **Calm returns to Lakers camp** /A26



WHAT'S INSIDE

■ **Cubs tame Marlins, move a win shy of World Series** /A30

■ **'Schumi' snares record 6th F1 title** /A32

JOHNSON (23) tries to break free from Ike Fontaine.
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WORLD POOL SUMMIT

RP cue artists enter semis

FILIPINOS Jose "Amang" Parica and Santos Sambajon hurdled their respective matches Saturday to advance to the semifinals of the 2003 Fury World Summit of Pool 9-ball tournament at the Amsterdam Billiards in Manhattan, New York.

The little-known Sambajon, a 43-year-old native of Quezon province, smashed Charlie "The Korean Dragon" Williams of the United States, 11-5, to forge a semis duel with American Danny " Kid Delicious" Basavich.

Basavich suprised compatriot and four-time world champion Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer, 11-9.

On the other hand, the 54-year-old Parica, known as "The Giant Killer" who grew up in Sta. Cruz, Manila, outplayed Tony Robles, 11-5. He goes up in the Final Four against Neils "Terminator" Feijen of the Netherlands who edged Rodney Morris, 11-9.

Morris ousted 2001 World Pool Cardiff champ Mika "The Iceman" Immonen of Finland via an 11-7 decision earlier. Parica crushed Ronnie Wiseman, 11-6, in his fourth match.

Meanwhile, after a succesful 1-2 finish in the 2003 World Classic Billiards event in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates 9-ball tournament recently, Efren " Bata" Reyes and Francisco " Django" Bustamante will banner the country's bid in the much-awaited Philippines vs Rest of the World tourney organized by Aristeo "Putch" Puyat on Oct. 28-31 at the ABS-CBN compound.

Puyat Sports and ABS-CBN had earlier staged the RP vs Europe on Cue where Immonen and 2002 World Pool Masters titlist Ralf "Kaiser" Souquet of Germany copped the top two places.

Aside from Reyes, Bustamante and Immonen, other renowned pool masters seeing in action in this event include reigning world pool champ Thorsten Hohmann of Germany, 2002 world pool titlist Earl "The Pearl" Strickland of US, Alex "The Lion" Pagulayan of Canada and four-time world champ Johnny "The Scorpion" Archer also of the United States.

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Calm returns to Lakers camp

EL SEGUNDO, California—Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal sat out practice Saturday as calm returned to the Los Angeles Lakers' training camp.

Bryant had problems with his knee, which was surgically repaired the day after his alleged sexual attack on a 19-year-old woman in Colorado in June.

O'Neal's heel bothered him, so he sat and watched 40-year-old Karl Malone lead the Lakers during sprints. Former Chicago Bulls player Horace Grant replaced O'Neal at center during scrimmages.

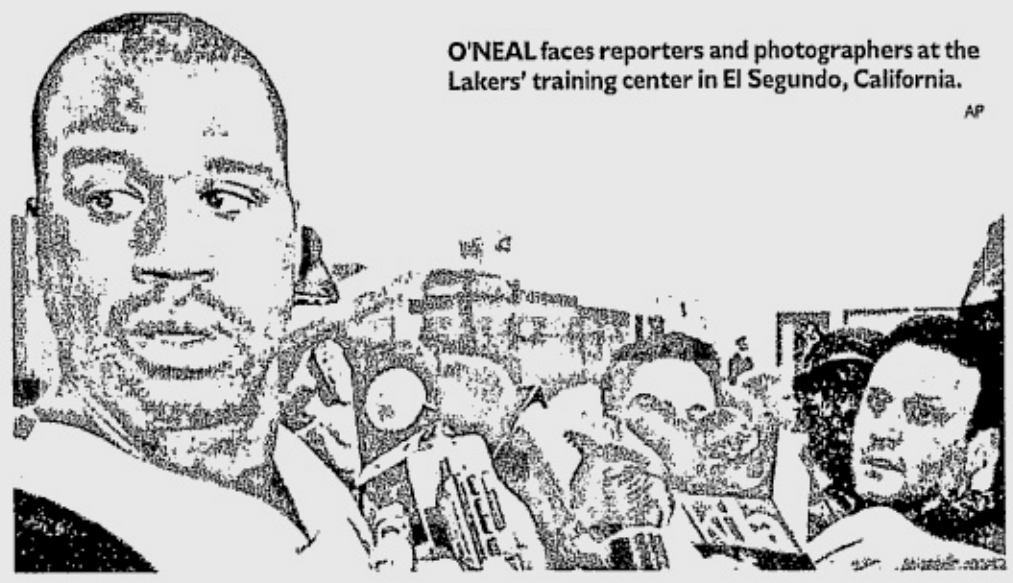
Coach Phil Jackson said Bryant experienced stiffness and swelling while doing leg work, so he confined his workout to riding a bike. Then Bryant iced his leg and had therapy.

"What he's got to re-establish is his ability to have the leg strength to carry himself," Jackson said.

"The joint itself is OK and we're pretty pleased with that. But whenever you do activity, there's going to be some kind of residual swelling, stiffness, whatever else. But he's in pretty good shape. I think he'll recover and be ready to go a little bit tomorrow."

Only four reporters showed up at the team's practice gym, which provided the kind of low-key atmosphere Jackson was craving.

"That kind of lets us have a day where we feel like we can work and become a laboratory experiment day, where we're doing some real gut things— defense, full-court pressure — the things that make basketball a defensive game," the coach said. *AP*



O'NEAL faces reporters and photographers at the Lakers' training center in El Segundo, California. AP

PCA netfest starts Oct. 18

THE 22ND Philippine Columbian Association Open Tennis Championships, billed as the biggest and longest-running netfest in the country, fires off on Oct. 18 with the junior competitions at the PCA outdoor courts in Plaza Dilao.

Events on tap are boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under divisions. Deadline of registration is at 5 p.m. today (Oct. 13).

The P400,000 Open division is slated Nov. 15-25 with the cream of the crop in local tennis participating .

This year, the PCA organizing committee set up a website (www.pcaopen.org) to reach out to a wider audience.

For more details, players may contact Loida Mallare and Cesar San Juan at the Philta office (525-6434) or tournament director Bobby Mangunay and Anette Reclusado at the PCA Open Secretariat (563-8501 loc. 113, 131, 132 and 562-9278).

Government Warning:
Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Is Jose Pidal a cousin of PSC chief Eric Buhain?

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Meanwhile, Stephenson issued a written apology to the Asian community on Saturday for criticizing Asian female players in a recent magazine article. *AP*

Eastridge Invitational meet stakes P1-M pot

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Danny Zarate, Cassius Casas, Robert Pactolerin, Rey Pagunsan, Antonio Lascuña and Cookie LaO lead the early batch of registrants for the tourney which is expected to feature no less than 80 pros who will be gunning for the cash prizes up for grabs for the top 30 finishers including ties.

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The tourney is being held in coordination with the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines headed by Jun Bustamante.

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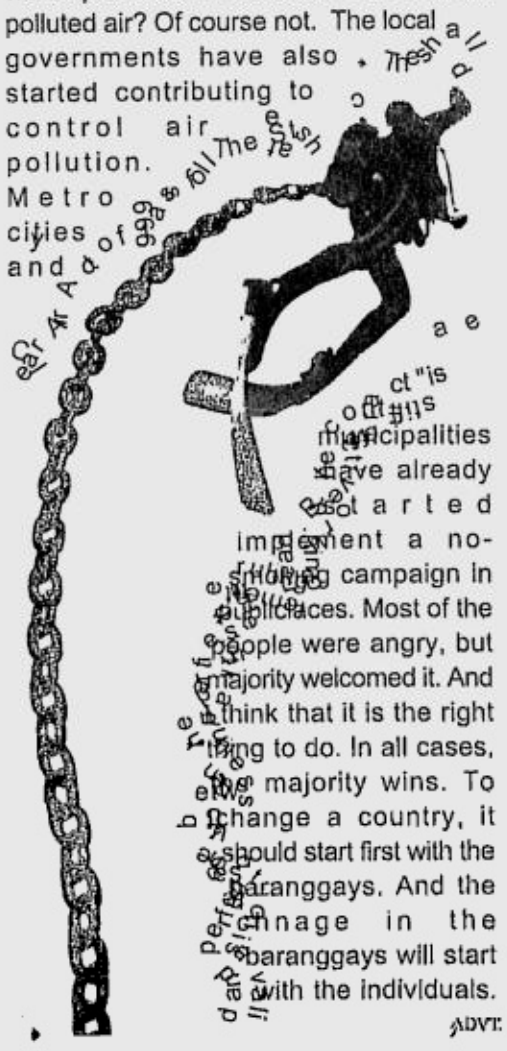

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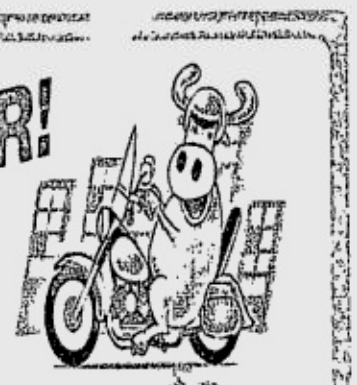

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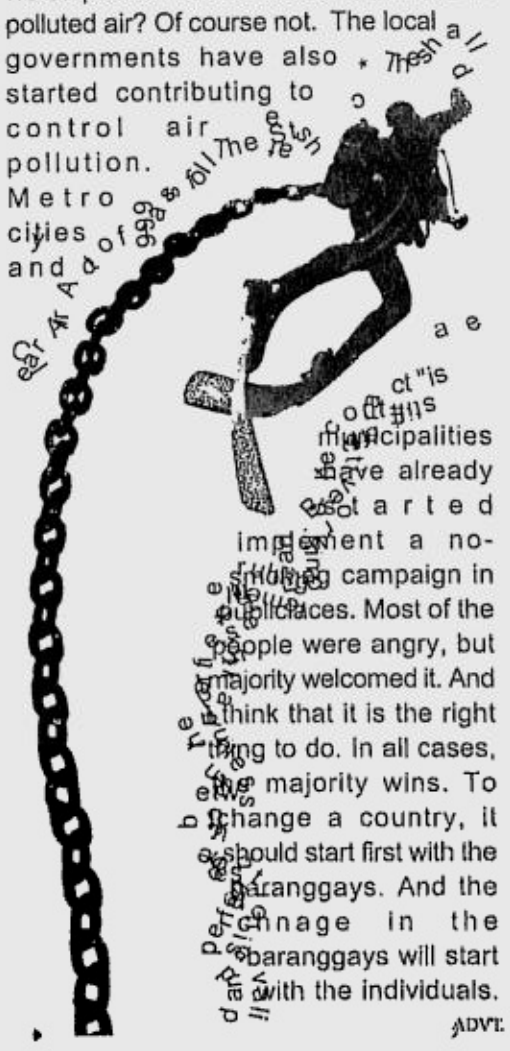
Air pollution, who is to blame? Vehicles are not the only cause of air pollution--there are the factories, power plants cigarette smoking and many more. However, we can help reduce air pollution in our little way just by regularly checking the emissions of owned vehicles. Small steps could lead to giant leaps in time. I know that everyone is tired of having to inhale toxic, suffocating air every day of his life, and having to fear lung cancer and other health problems. Are we still going to allow our day to be ruined the instant we step out of our houses and breathe in polluted air? Of course not. The local governments have also started contributing to control air pollution. Metro cities and municipalities have already started to implement a no-smoking campaign in public places. Most of the people were angry, but majority welcomed it. And I think that it is the right thing to do. In all cases, the majority wins. To change a country, it should start first with the barangays. And the change in the barangays will start with the individuals.



ADVT.

What are the facts about GSIS?

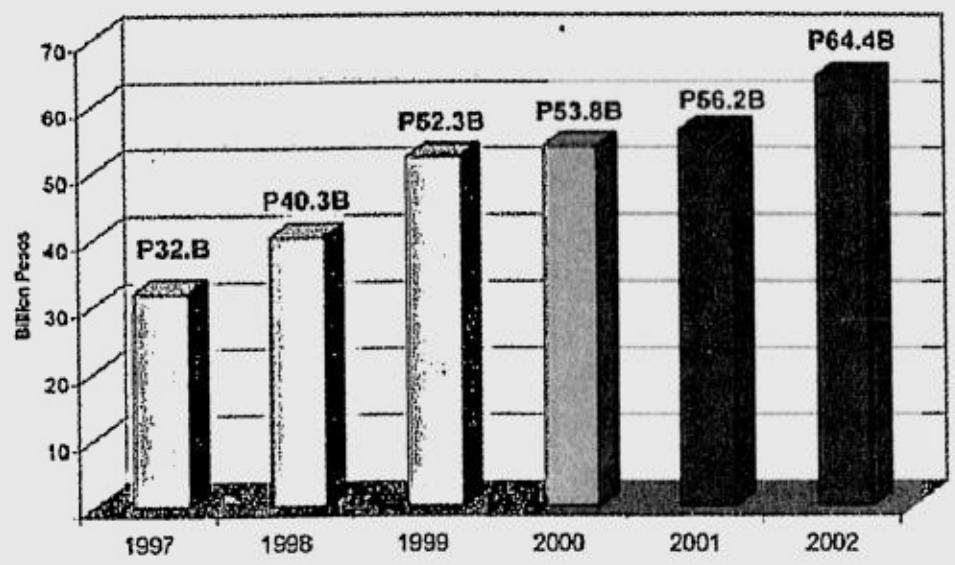
Per the financial statements audited by the Commission on Audit, the GSIS, under the administration of Winston Garcia, has had its best financial performance, and is at its most stable financial position.

- **The GSIS today under Winston Garcia has undertaken substantive reforms and system improvements and given numerous membership benefits**

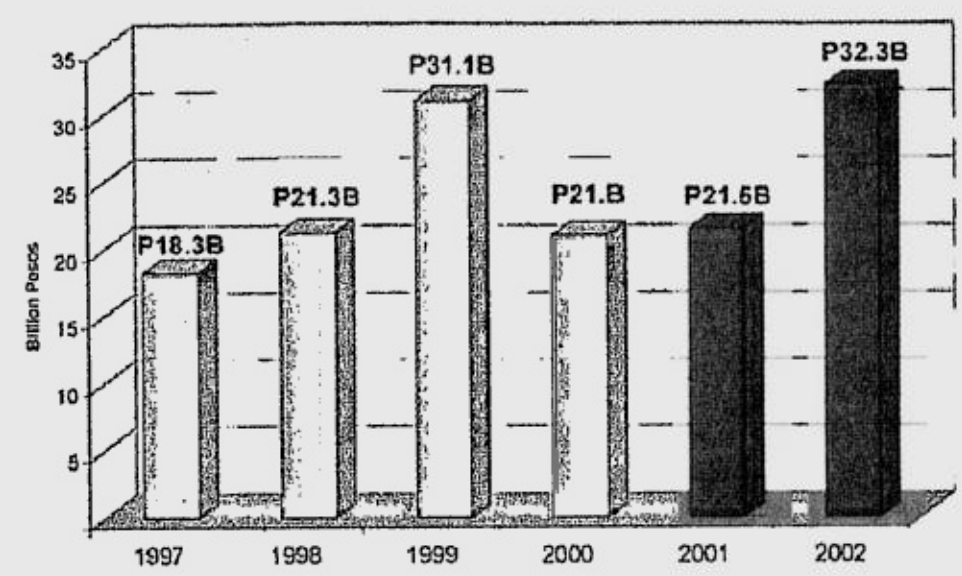
- **PGM Garcia is carrying out the difficult and politically-unpopular move of posting and reconciliation of member and agency payments and accounts, and is aggressively collecting receivables pursuant to his mandate to protect and enhance the GSIS fund.**

- **Under PGM Garcia, for the fiscal years 2001 and 2002, the COA rendered a "clean" opinion of the financial statements of the GSIS—a first in GSIS history.**

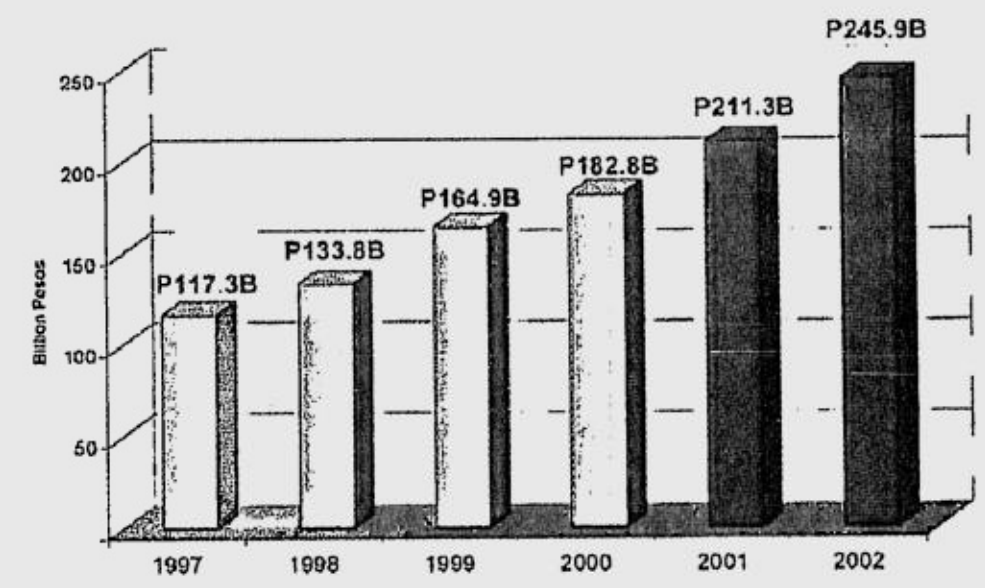
Highest Gross Revenues — P64.351 billion



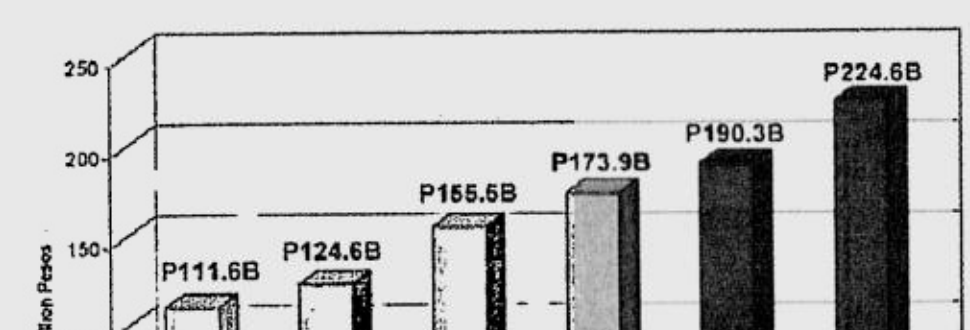
Highest Net Revenues — P32.252 billion



Highest Asset Level — P245.914 billion



Highest Reserves & Surplus — P224.588 billion



We ask you to support us in our reform and improvement efforts so that we can further strengthen the GSIS fund and System for the benefit of the GSIS members and their families.

The GSIS is strong. Now stronger.

Government Service Insurance System
Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan, Maaasahan.

SOME members of the Salinggawi display their winning form.

Salinggawi makes up for lackluster UST year

THE UST Tigers bowed out of the UAAP season tied for the fifth and sixth positions with the Adamson Falcons, while the Tigresses ended up fifth in the women's division.

The Tiger Cubs made it in the Final Four by the skin of their teeth. But the blazing moment of glory in this lackluster year for UST is the back-to-back championship in the Cheerdance competition by its Salinggawi Dance Troupe.

Turning, twisting and twirling in astounding unison to the eclectic mix of music in front of a jampacked Araneta Coliseum, Salinggawi found itself the UAAP Season 66's Nestlé Cheerdance Competition champion once again.

LA Gear, the sponsoring company of the fearless Salinggawi, carried the day for the team, who did not have any sponsor last year.

"We believe in the ferocious determination of this team, as well as in their prodigious talent," explained Thomas Lim, an alumni of the College of Engineering who is also the owner of LA Gear, Salinggawi's main backer. "We recognize the beating heart of a champion in this team, and we are proud that they carried our logo in the competition," he added.

Teddy Pereña of Team Inc., one of the team managers of the UST senior men's basketball team, spearheaded the search for a sponsor who will bear the torch for the cheering team this season.

Bonuses

As a token of the company's jubilation for the victory, LA Gear gave bonuses for the team's 29 members and hosted a victory party at the Glorietta in Makati.

Salinggawi or Salin ng mga Dating Gawi at Lahi, which means transfer of customs and traditions, was founded in 1968 as the cultural group of the University of Santo Tomas at a time when the country was in the throes of a cultural renaissance. Through the years, it has evolved a unique character not only in the field of dancing, but also in the broader arena of the performing arts with script writing, stage production and costume design integrated in their rigorous discipline.

Salinggawi's adviser for eight years now is UST's Institute of Physical Education and Athletics (IPEA) instructor, Edna Sanchez, while it is Felicitas Francisco, director of IPEA, who treasures the numerous trophies and plaques which Salinggawi has brought to UST and proudly showcases them in her office.

But happiest of all is IPEA Regent, Fr. Ermito de Sagon, OP, the low profile Dominican who is the wind beneath the wings of the Salinggawi.

Like the rest of the athletic teams of UST, Salinggawi has to surmount many difficulties, and in true Thomasian spirit, was able to overcome the odds.

3 top players to get Hechanova awards

THREE ace players will receive the prestigious Rafael "Paeng" Hechanova sportsmanship trophy in the annual UAAP Press Corps achievements awards on Oct. 16 during the SCOOP sa Kamayan at West Avenue, Quezon City.

Ateneo's Larry Fonacier, La Salle-Zobel's Lope Juban III and UP's Camille Dowling will be recognized for being role models for basketball fans with their on and off court attitudes.

Composed of sportswriters covering the UAAP beat, the Press Corps also picked FEU's Arwind Santos, Adamson's Minerva Narciza and Ateneo's Mark Intal as finals MVPs.

Joseph Evans Casio of La Salle was the easy choice as newcomer of the year.

National men's coach Aric del Rosario, who steered Santo Tomas to the four-peat from 1993 to '97, will be recognized for his invaluable contributions to the league. Del Rosario called it quits at the end of this year's basketball season. *Dennis U. Eroa*

BOUND FOR VIETNAM

BAP names lineup to SEA Games

By Dennis U. Eroa

BARRING any major problem, a 12-man lineup bannered by top collegiate and amateur players will carry the country's colors as it defends its SEA Games title this December in Vietnam.

Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP) Secretary General Graham Lim submitted the names of the players, including four alternates to the PBL as part of the requirements for the team's participation in the coming PBL Platinum Cup.

Lim stressed that the list was made upon the recommendation of national team mentor Aric del Rosario and his coaching staff.

Lim also clarified that the participation of Ranidel de Ocampo and Ervin Sotto will still be tackled by the BAP executive board.

The 6-foot-5 De Ocampo and the 6-foot-7 Sotto played for St. Francis in the recent Universities and Colleges Athletic Association. The BAP has withdrawn its sanction to the UCAA following a row.

The complete list: Paul Artadi, Rich Alvarez, Recaredo Calimag, Celino Cruz, Gary David, Dennis Madrid, Richard Melencio, Ranidel de Ocampo, Ervin Sotto, Marc Pingris, Arwind Santos and James Yap.

Alternates are Wesley Gonzales, Alwin Espiritu, Emmerson Oreta and William Wilson.

Earlier, the participation of the nationals was put in jeopardy following a question on the use of their corporate sponsor—Cebuana Lhuillier—in their logo.

PBL Commissioner Chino Trinidad, however, acceded to the request made by BAP President Tiny Literal regarding the RP team's commitment to its sponsor.

"It's a touchy issue but a win-win solution can be done. I need to do a lot of convincing before the board but I can assure everybody that the RP team will compete," Trinidad said.

Sweden, Germany XIs ready; US places 3rd

CARSON, California—Women's World Cup finalists Sweden and Germany each prepared for Sunday's tournament-ending match with an early morning practice just outside the Home Depot Center.

The final is scheduled to be played Sunday at 10 a.m. local time (1700 GMT), so both teams have been getting ready for the early wake-up call with morning practices.

On Saturday, the United States claimed third place by beating Canada, 3-1.

Both Germany and Sweden are injury-free and confident. The last time they met with so much on the line was in the 2001 European Championship final. Germany won that 1-0 in extra time.

"I feel that we have been waiting for this match for a long time—several years," Sweden coach Marika Domanski-Lyfors said Saturday. "Now we are prepared."

Germany leads the head-to-head series, 6-0-5, but Sweden won the last match they played against each other in March 2002 at the Algarve Cup.

In the third-place match, Shannon Boxx headed in the game-winning goal in the 51st minute, jumping at the far post to put home a corner kick from Fifa Player of the Year Mia Hamm.

"She hit a perfect ball and all I had to do was just get up," Boxx said. "And that's what I did."

Kristine Lilly had given the defending champion Americans the lead in the 22nd minute by blasting in a long-range shot. Christine Sinclair equalized for the Canadians in the 38th, slicing through the United States defense and beating goalkeeper Briana Scurry to the far side.

Sinclair nearly leveled the score again in the 75th, but her header bounced off the crossbar. Tiffeny Milbrett added the insurance in the 80th, putting back a rebound off a defender for the third American goal.

"When you're playing against an older team, you need to finish off your goal chances," Canada coach Even Pellerud said. "Considering all, we had a strong performance."

In the semifinals, Germany beat the Americans, 3-0, while Sweden came from behind to beat Canada, 2-1.

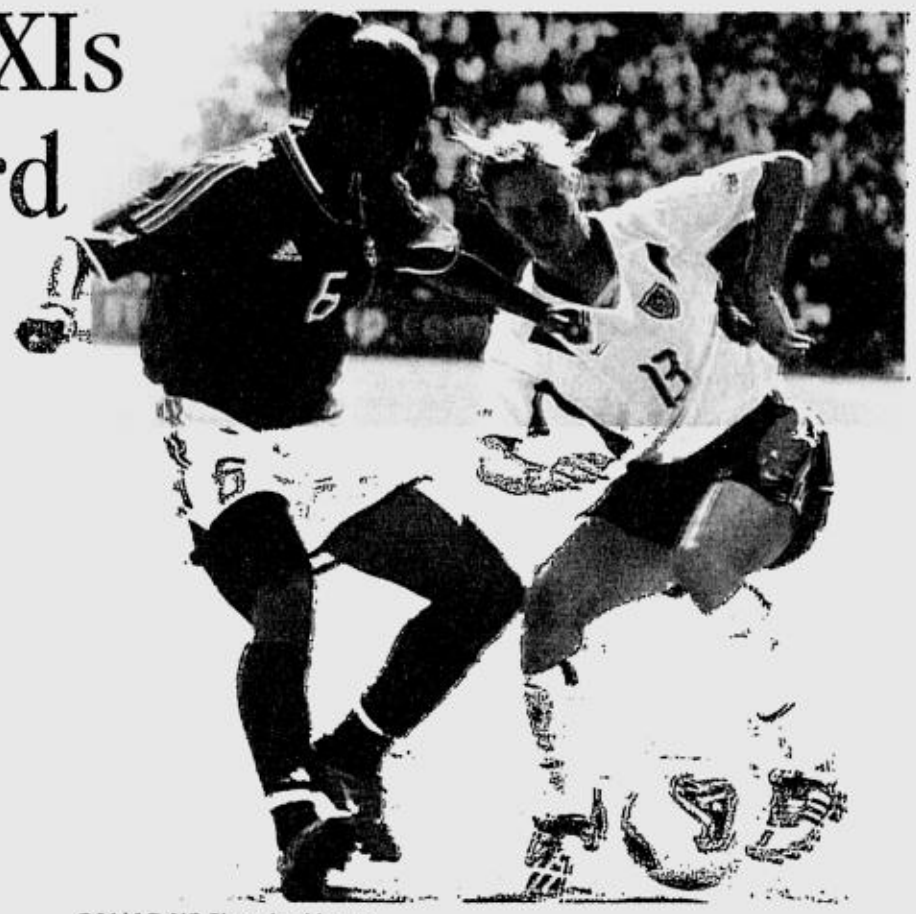
Meanwhile, many of Europe's powerhouses are into next summer's European Championship—France, Germany, Italy, England and host Portugal.

But a few countries with sterling credentials will have to fight it out in two-legged playoffs, Nov. 15 and 19—namely Spain, Turkey and the Netherlands.

The 16-team field has 11 participants after qualifiers around the continent on Saturday.

Surprises were few. The biggest upset may have been England captain David Beckham missing a 37th-minute penalty—he sailed the ball 20 feet (6 meters) over the crossbar in Istanbul as his left leg slipped on impact.

Fortunately for the English, the 0-0 draw was good enough to win Group 7 with Turkey going into the risky playoff next month. The scoreless game capped a chaotic week in which defender Rio Ferdinand was banned for missing a drug test. *AP*



CANADA'S Sharolta Nonen (left) and USA's Kristine Lilly battle for the ball in the first half of their Fifa 2003 Women's World Cup third place match. AFP

The population of Metro Manila has rapidly grown over the past three decades and now stands at 12 million. More people, more cars, more garbage, more pollution. How do we tackle the massive problem of air pollution? The first step i[illegible] ss of the seriousness of the problem on the part of government, citizens and industry, coupled with a dramatic plan of action. The government and the private sector have partnered to promote The Clean Air Act. This is a very good program if only it is implemented well. The Partnership has identified the reduction of vehicle smoke emissions as high priority, and will focus on communicating negative health impacts, technological options available for vehicles to prevent smoke belching, and the government's commitment to fully enforce emission standards. Health experts are sounding the alarm that a special population at risk with the alarming problem of air pollution are children, especially those under six years of age. Many are falling ill and dying from the effects of this worsening problem. Lead, found in the exhaust fumes of motor vehicles, is the most harmful toxin to children because it adversely affects the nervous system, decreases their IQs, and slows down motor skills. Air pollution was highlighted as a major cause of respiratory diseases.

Along with these efforts is the need for us to fully understand "environmental planning," or those activities concerned with the management and development of land, as well as the preservation, conservation and rehabi-litation of the human environment. Increasing evidence suggests that diesel emissions, contribute greatly to the deterioration of our air. Particulate emissions in Metro Manila, are both carcinogenic and mutagenic, meaning they can cause cancer and change a cell's

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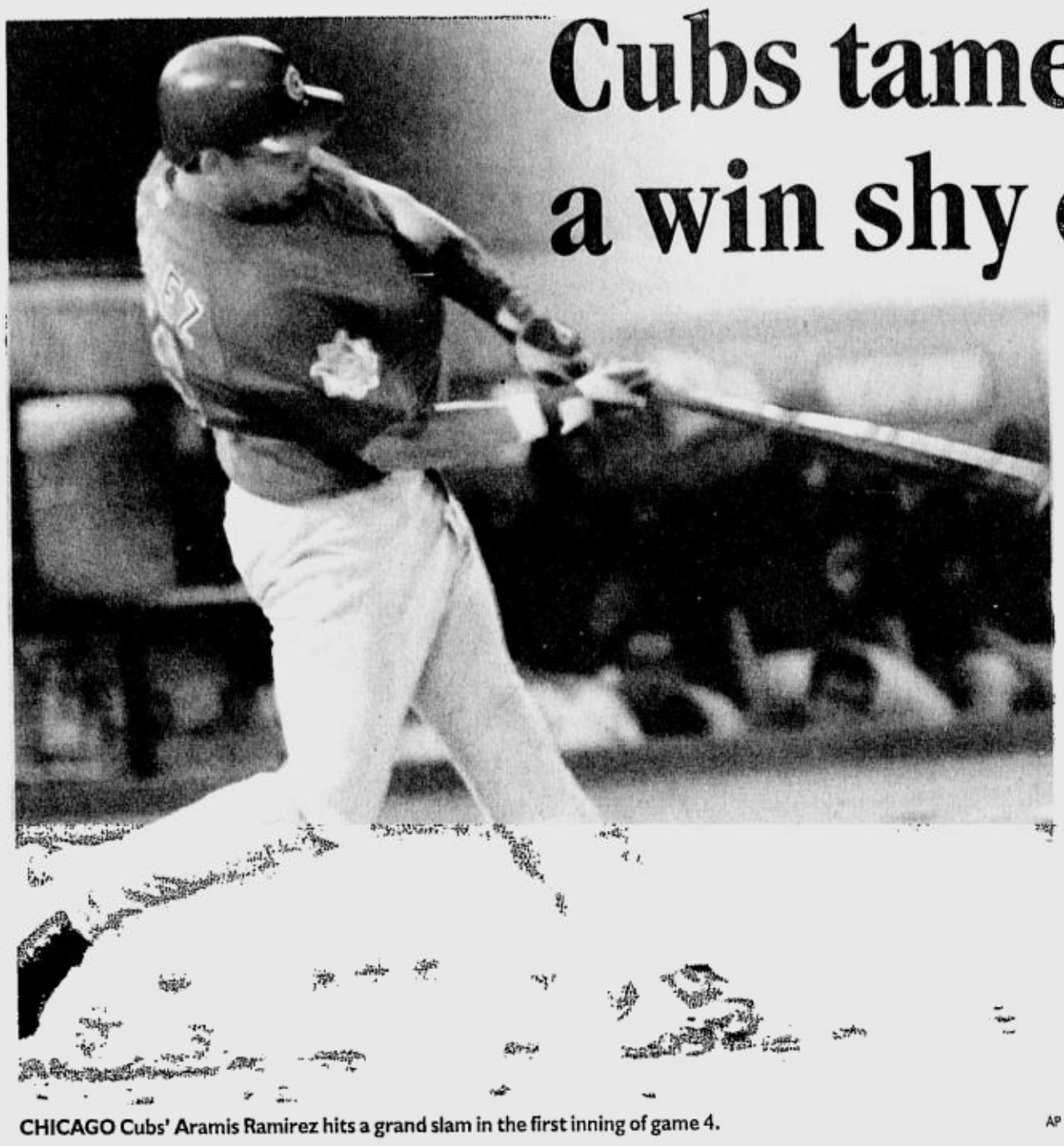
Cubs tame Marlins, move a win shy of World Series



CHICAGO Cubs' Aramis Ramirez hits a grand slam in the first inning of game 4. AP

MIAMI—Aramis Ramirez lingered around home plate, hoping his long drive would stay true instead of taking another cruel Cubs twist. When the ball landed fair, it was clear which way the fates had turned.

After nearly a century of futility, fortune finally seems to be in their favor.

Ramirez hit the first grand slam in Cubs' postseason history, added another homer and drove in six runs as Chicago moved within one win of its first World Series since 1945 by trouncing the Florida Marlins, 8-3, Saturday night in the NL championship series.

"You've got to close it out," Cubs manager Dusty Baker said. "It's not over yet, big time."

Matt Clement pitched his team to a three games to one edge, getting a standing ovation from thousands of Cubs fans when he left in the eighth inning. Marlins fans were still mostly in shock, having seen rookie Dontrelle Willis get shelled.

Ramirez's slam came in the first inning, and the Cubs led 7-0 by the fourth.

"I know they haven't won in 95 years," said Ramirez, acquired from Pittsburgh on July 22. "I was pretty excited when I hit that."

The Cubs can wrap it up Sunday at Pro Player Stadium, when Carlos Zambrano faces Josh Beckett in Game 5.

Then again, don't count on anyone in the Chicago clubhouse to celebrate too early. After all, these are the Cubs, who haven't won the championship since 1908.

Needing only one more win to make the World Series in 1984, they blew a 2-0 lead to San Diego in the best-of-five NLCS. Marlins manager Jack McKeon was the Padres' general manager that year, by the way.

So would he give these Marlins a little history lesson Sunday?

"I might do it," he said.

Only three times in LCS play and five times in the World Series have clubs overcome a 3-1 deficit in a best-of-seven series. For the wild-card Marlins to do it, they'll have to win games started by Cubs aces Mark Prior and Kerry Wood.

"I think if you go back through the record book, there are a lot of teams that have come back," McKeon said. "You can't give up."

A night after Ramirez had to scramble at third base to record the final out for a 5-4 win in 11 innings, the Cubs cruised.

Willis, traded for Clement right before the 2002 season started, walked the bases loaded with one out in the first inning. Sweat was beading on his face on a humid night as the 21-year-old All-Star rookie faced Ramirez for the first time in his career.

Ramirez launched a 2-2 pitch deep down the left-field line, and hung around to watch it land inside the foul pole. Cubs fans among the LCS-record crowd of 65,829 roared as Ramirez rounded the bases. *AP*

Yankees seize 2-1 lead over Red Sox

'Rocket' pitches NY past Boston in fight-marred contest

BOSTON—In a game that featured fights, brushbacks and plenty of bad blood, Roger Clemens pitched the New York Yankees past the Boston Red Sox, 4-3, on Saturday for a 2-1 lead in the AL championship series.

Pedro Martinez threw 72-year-old coach Don Zimmer to the ground during a fourth-inning melee after Manny Ramirez was angered by a high pitch from Clemens. The "Rocket," however, never got flustered in his Fenway Park farewell.

"We've upgraded from a battle to a war," Boston manager Grady Little said.

Derek Jeter hit a tying homer to help the Yankees overcome a 2-0 first-inning deficit, and Hideki Matsui had a go-ahead double for New York.

"It was huge, especially playing here," Jeter said. "This won't mean anything unless we come out tomorrow and win."

David Wells pitches for New York in Game 4 Sunday, opposed by John Burkett.

"We're to play baseball, that's first and foremost in our minds," Yankees manager Joe Torre said. "We win two more games and we get to go to the World Series."

Saturday's game was billed as a heavyweight matchup between two pitchers who have won a total of nine Cy Young Awards, and the fighting began just after Matsui's RBI double put New York ahead 3-2.

Martinez's next pitch was behind Karim Garcia's head, and plate umpire Alfonso Marquez ruled that it nicked Garcia's back before hitting his bat. Marquez issued a warning to both dugouts about throwing inside. Torre thought Martinez deliberately threw at Garcia.

"That's no mistake in my mind," Torre said. "You can't sit around and say, 'OK, do what you want.'"

Little's take was different. "Pedro never takes a shot at someone's head like that," he said.

Alfonso Soriano then came up with the bases loaded and no outs, and he grounded to shortstop, with Boston turning a double play as Nick Johnson scored from third.

Garcia slid hard, knocking down second baseman Todd Walker. The two began shoving each other, and both teams slowly came out of the dugouts, yelling. Yankees catcher Jorge Posada, Clemens and Zimmer were among the loudest.

When play resumed, Enrique Wilson popped out, ending the inning.

Two umpires pulled Clemens aside as he went to the mound for the bottom of the inning.

With the count 1-2 to Ramirez leading off, Clemens threw a high pitch, at the level of Ramirez's head, but not far inside. Ramirez bailed before the pitch even reached the plate, raised his bat slightly and shouted at Clemens, who yelled back.

Both dugouts and bullpens emptied, with Zimmer coming all the way across the infield to the first-base side. The coach headed for the 31-year-old Martinez and lunged at him. Martinez sidestepped him, grabbed him by the head with both hands and tossed him to the ground. Zimmer landed face down and rolled over on his back.

"I think Zim's a little old for that," Little said.

Zimmer remained on the ground and Yankees trainer Gene Monahan treated the coach for what appeared to be a cut on his head. Sitting in the dugout, Zimmer had a small bandage on the bridge of his nose. Later, he was smiling and laughing.

Zimmer, the Red Sox manager when they lost the famous 1978 AL East playoff to the Yankees, has a plate in his head, the result of a beaning in 1953. He is in his 54th season in professional baseball. *AP*

DEREK Jeter (left) holds back teammate Roger Clemens. AFP

NEW York Yankees bench coach Don Zimmer is thrown to the ground by Pedro Martinez. AP

Heron Hitters shine

NATIONAL players Alma Ledesma and Jaime Junio scored contrasting victories to lead the Heron Hitters' 3-2 victory over the Feather Whackers last Saturday in the Philippine Badminton Tournaments Invitational at the Valle Verde Country Club in Pasig City.

Ledesma showed her supremacy over promising junior Janina Paredes with a 7-11, 11-7, 11-6 decision in the ladies singles, while Junio, a three-time Asian Junior Championships campaigner, stamped his class over Owen Lopez in the men's singles, 15-10, 15-7, to give the Heron Hitters a 2-0 lead.

The Feather Whackers threatened at 1-2 when Jeanette Banquilles and Paula Obanana won the ladies doubles over Karyn Velez and Ledesma, 15-4, 15-3.

But Kwee Tek Ming and Migs Acosta defeated Mitsuyuki Kurosaka and Ricky Morales in the men's doubles, 15-9, 15-3, as the Heron Hitters nailed their second straight win in this tournament sponsored by PLDT Vibe and Yonex.

Congress should file bill for non-Olympic sports

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE RECENT victory of CJ Suarez in the 2003 AMF Bowling World Cup in Honduras where more than 80 countries competed for honors showed once again that the Filipino is second to no one in tenpin bowling—a sport that requires natural talent, fierce determination and strong personal discipline to succeed.

Unfortunately, even though CJ's smashing triumph gave the godforsaken country a wholesome image before the eyes of the world, his amazing feat will not be sufficiently recognized by this government because the country's one and only law for sporting heroes—Republic Act 9064—provides incentives only to Filipino athletes whose achievements were accomplished in quadrennial competitions which are sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee such as the Olympics, Asian and Southeast Asian Games. There is no law that will reward achievers in annual and biannual competitions for non-Olympic sports such as bowling, billiards, golf and chess.

As I have said before, a well-earned victory in a world level tournament like the Bowling World Cup should be recognized and treated just like an Olympic gold. It is not the fault of CJ Suarez, four-time World Cup champion Paeng Nepomuceno (who earned a spot in the prestigious Guinness Book of Records, a place in the International Bowling Hall of Fame and awarded the IOC President's Trophy in 1999), the late Lita de la Rosa and Bong Coo that their sport is not included in the Olympic calendar. The achievement does not become easier simply because it is not in the Olympics. The World Cup is the largest and toughest annual bowling event for national champions for more than 80 countries. Consider too that bowling counts with more than 100 million players worldwide.

While it is true that the Philippine Sports Commission headed by chair Eric Buhain gives incentives to the winners of annual and biennial non-Olympic events, methinks that is not enough. The cash incentives (and other benefits) should be made permanent like what is provided for in RA 9064 and not at the whim of whoever is the PSC chair.

So that no athlete would be left behind, there is now a need to file a new incentive bill in Congress just like the proposed bill submitted last year by former Assemblyman and sports patron Jose "Popit" Puyat. Called "Sports Incentives and Benefits Act of 2002." it provides for cash incentives to national athletes who have brought honor and prestige to the country by winning first, second or third place in annual and biennial World, Asian and other international competitions of similar level and prestige. The cash rewards are as follows: For World level championships, P2.5 million for first place; P1M for second place; and P500,000 for third. For Asian level championships which allow the participation of Asian countries as well as from Australia and New Zealand; and for other international championships of similar level and prestige held in Europe or the Americas, P1M for first; P500,000 for second and P200,000 for third place.

PATAKBO WINNERS
Liza Yambao of the UST, women's division winner Gloria Diaz of St. Francis of Assisi, Marecil Maquilan of University of the East and Reynaldo de los Reyes and Jojit de Asis of the Philippine Army (from left) pose with men's category champion Ronald Servidad and Nelson Macaraig of Jonel Promotions during the awarding ceremonies of the Beam-Zest-O Patakbong Pinoy inaugural race at the Raja Sulaiman Park in Malate, Manila, recently. The 5-km running event, organized by the Media Runners and Sports Promotions, moves to Batangas on Oct. 26.

SPORTS TV
Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

BASEBALL: 2003 MLB-ALCS Game 4; 8 a.m. (r- 2 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); ESPN—See if the Boston Red Sox can break the curse or if the New York Yankees have what it takes to make a return trip to the Fall Classic.

MOTOR SPORTS: F1 Fuji Television Japanese Grand Prix; 3 p.m.; Star Sports—Take another look at the conclusion of the F1 season.

BASKETBALL: Lakers vs. Knicks, Game 7, 1970 Finals; 8 a.m.; Solar Sports—After leaving Game 5 with what appeared to be a series-ending injury, New Yorks' team captain Willis Reed returns to inspire his teammates. On cue, Walt "Clyde" Frazier goes on to have one of the best Game 7 performances in NBA Finals History, scoring 36 points and distributing 19 assists, leading the Knicks to their first NBA title.

Vintage NBA-Bob Petit; 10 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Solar Sports—Relive the Hall of Fame career of the former St. Louis Hawks forward.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

San Lazaro hosts 3 big races Oct. 19

THE SECOND Don Juan Derby racefest and the sixth and final leg of the Philracom Imported Stakes Series will be held on Oct. 19 at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite.

Manila Jockey Club vice president for marketing and corporate affairs Henri Kahn said the races cap the club's weeklong schedule which includes four night racing cards of nine races each from Tuesday through Friday and a complement of 14 and 13 races each on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

The racefest will showcase two featured championship races—the P1-million Derby and the P500,000 Golden Girl Stakes—as well as the P450,000 Imported Stakes Series sixth leg.

Four classy charges are officially declared to compete in the Derby. They are Security Master and High Octane, as well as import group standouts' Absolute Charmer and Midnight Lady.

Joining the Golden Girl Stakes are Audrey's Savings, Bulakeña, Catwalk Pia, Cosanne, Golden Ballet, Material Maker, Mica's Magic, Of Note, South Sea and Triregal.

SPORTSWATCH

NCA finals today

THOUSANDS of *sabong* aficionados are expected to watch the fifth and final leg of NCA's exciting Stagwars series today at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum. The NCA Stagfighter winner will be known after this derby. This 7-stag event will be hosted by partners Louie Cua and Tony Tan. Meanwhile, participants to the upcoming NCA Grand National 8-Stag Championship Derby on Nov. 10,12 and 14 are required to bring the screening and banding copies by their respective associations. The NCA has put up an independent committee composed of Johnny Jalandoni, Boy Nilo Lizares, Boy Velez, Jun Cometa and Boy Jiao to see to it that only legitimate stags duly banded by their respective organizations will be entered in the derby.

Uwak Cup slated

THE SECOND edition of the Uwak Cup organized by the Wack Wack Ladies chapter unwraps on Oct. 6 with two shotgun tee-offs at the East course. Trophies and attractive raffle prizes are at stake, while a dinner buffet awaits the participants during the awards night to be hosted by golf enthusiast Andy Dumlao. Major sponsors are Abante, Akio Seki, Euromed Laboratories Phils. Inc., Globe Telecoms, OSIM/GNC, PCSO, San Miguel Corp. and Splash. Other backers are Bacchus, Berrocca, Callaway, Cinnabon, Clara Olé, Close-up, Coppertone, Hershey's, Kenny Rogers Roasters, MIS Maritime, Mitsubishi Motors Phils., Pacsports, Pioneer Insurance, Popeye's Chicken & Biscuits, San Remo Pasta, Seattle's Best, Standard Insurance, TaylorMade, United Laboratories, Vaseline and Vitality Lamb & Beef dog food.

Lakers face Snipers

THE TWO newest members of the National Basketball League—the San Pablo City 7-Lakers and the Ilocos Region Sur Snipers—will clash on Oct. 24 at the start of the Panasonic NBL Regional Conference at the refurbished Florante Aquino Stadium in San Pablo City. The 7-Lakers and the Snipers will square off at 5 p.m. after the 4 p.m. opening ceremony. Veteran coach Ted B. Magno will call the shots for the 7-Lakers of Mayor Boy Aquino. Murphyl Limbo, Jec Maghirang, Roberto Anonuevo, NBL All-Stars Mario Reyes, Rodel Manuel, Rolly Menor and TC Habelito, and FEU slotman Michael Tolentino will suit up for the 7-Lakers.

Newcomers prevail

TWO newcomers stole the show by ruling yesterday's initial edition of the AVIA USA 10K Run at the Cultural Center of the Philippines Complex in Pasay City. National training pool mainstay Alley Quisay relied on a big finishing kick in the last 400 m to cross the finish line first in the men's division. He timed 32 minutes and seven seconds. The Bolinao, Pangasinan native was just four ticks faster than veteran Crescenciano Sabal and 11 seconds quicker than third placer Reynaldo de los Reyes, to pocket the top prize of P10,000 plus a crafted AVIA trophy. In the distaff side, Laguna marathon winner Sealand Agana, 16-year-old student from Fort Bonifacio High School, repeated over former National Milo Marathon champ Liza Relox-Delfin with a 41.17 clocking as against the latter's 41.33.

Justine eyes No. 1

FILDERSTADT, Germany—Justine Henin-Hardenne, having beaten Kim Clijsters in the French and US Open finals already this season, aims to rub salt into the wound on Sunday by snatching her Belgian compatriot's world number one spot. The two will meet again in the final of the $650,000 WTA tournament here on Sunday where a win for Henin-Hardenne will mean top spot in the world. Henin-Hardenne beat Russia's Elena Bovina, 6-2, 6-4, in her semifinal, while Clijsters defeated France's Mary Pierce, 7-6 (7/2), 6-0. *AFP*

THE EVOLUTION OF A HAIR TRANSPLANT PROCEDURE.

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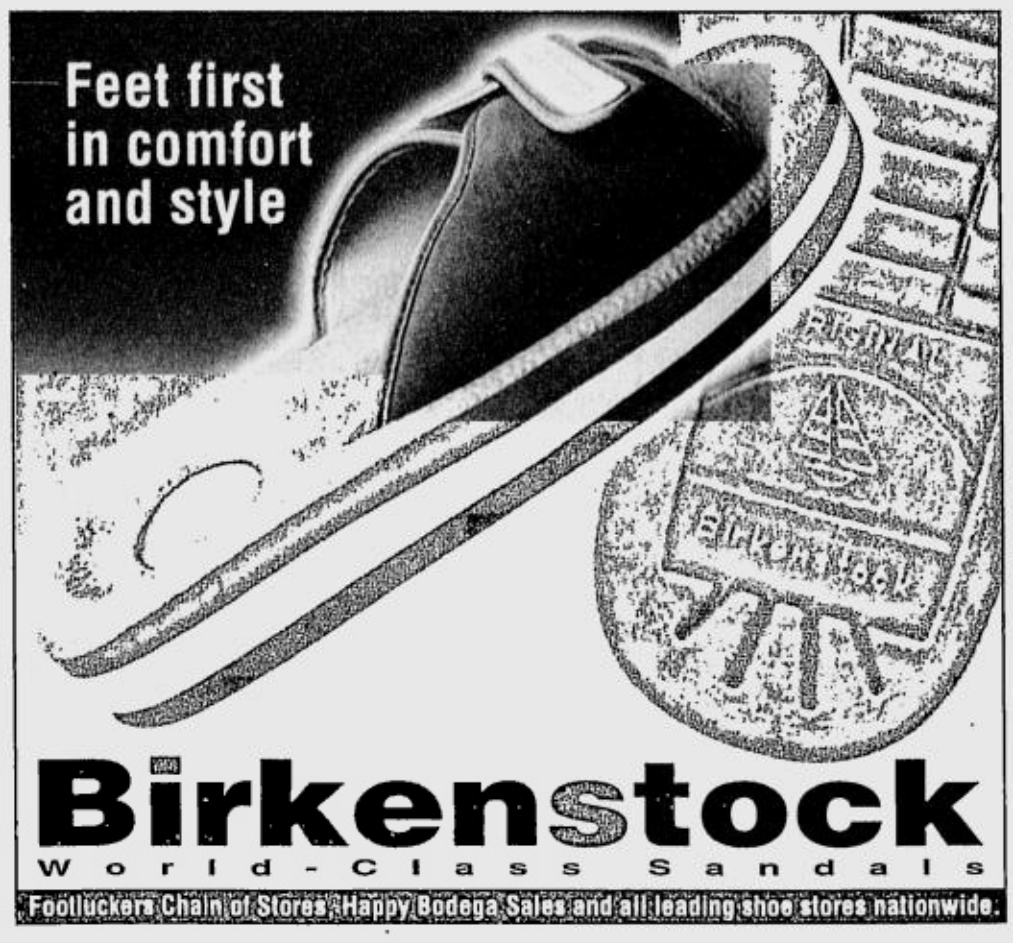
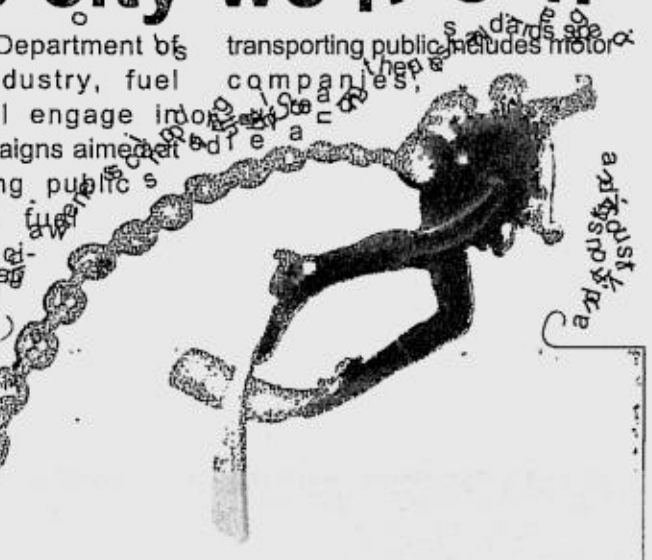
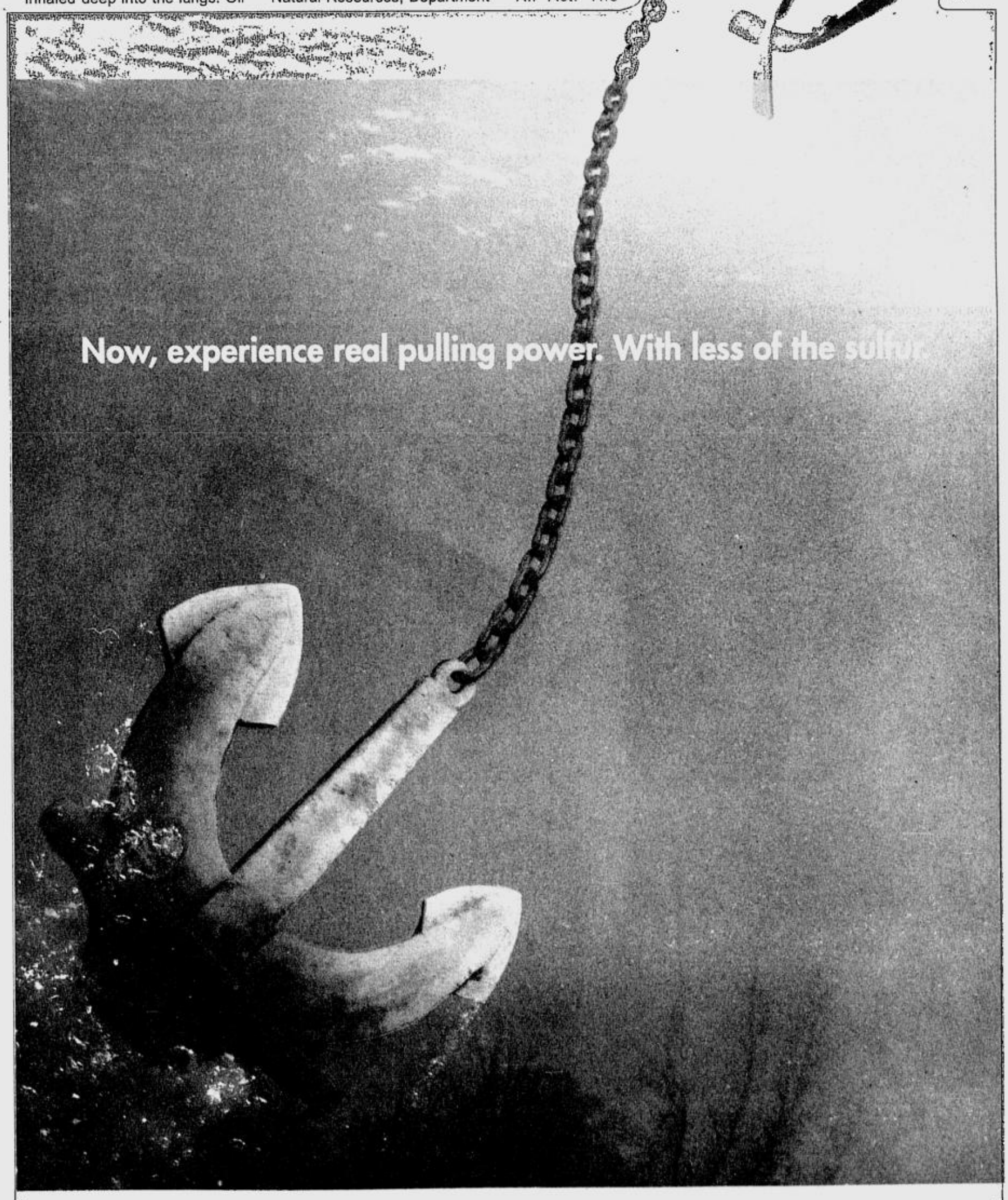


The air we breathe and the city we live in

About two-thirds of Metro Manila's air pollution is caused by vehicular emissions while one-third is caused by industry. Fine particulates are the biggest problem, which are emitted directly as smoke and diesel soot and which can be inhaled deep into the lungs. Oil companies and transport groups have expressed concern over the deteriorating quality of Metro Manila's air, as they pledge support for the $298-million "Partnership for Clean Air" (PCA) project. Together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Department of Energy, and Department of Trade and Industry, fuel companies will engage in awareness campaigns aimed at the transporting public regarding the fuel standards specified in the Clean Air Act. The transporting public includes motor





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SPORTS

BARRICHELLO DELIVERS

'Schumi' snares record 6th F1 title

SUZUKA, Japan—Michael Schumacher won a record sixth world Formula One title Sunday by securing a crucial eighth place at the Japanese Grand Prix, and thanks to his teammate who fought off a strong challenge from championship contender Kimi Raikkonen.

Schumacher's Ferrari teammate, Rubens Barrichello, won the race ahead of Raikkonen. The McLaren driver needed to win and Schumacher to remain scoreless to secure the title.

But Schumacher scored a point in eighth place — good enough no matter what Raikkonen did, who secured eight points. The German finished the season with 93 points, just two ahead of Raikkonen.

"It is very strange for me because most of my championships I (have) won with a victory," Schumacher said.

"Here I am today winning the championship in eighth position. It is with mixed emotion though, what the team has achieved is fantastic."

It was Schumacher's fourth consecutive title for Ferrari, to go with the championships he won with Benetton in 1994 and 1995. Sunday's results also secured Ferrari's fifth constructor's championship.

BARRICHELLO splashes champagne while Ferrari team general director Jean Todt holds him from behind. AFP

Raikkonen was 11 seconds behind Barrichello at the end of 53 laps.

McLaren's David Coulthard was third, BAR's Jenson Button came in fourth, followed by Renault's Jarno Trulli.

Japan's Takuma Sato finished sixth in his first race with BAR, while Toyota's Cristiano da Matta was seventh.

Schumacher came across the line 59.4 seconds behind, but good enough for the championship.

It wasn't an easy title for Schumacher. He trailed Raikkonen 24-8 after three races, and endured several difficult races throughout the year.

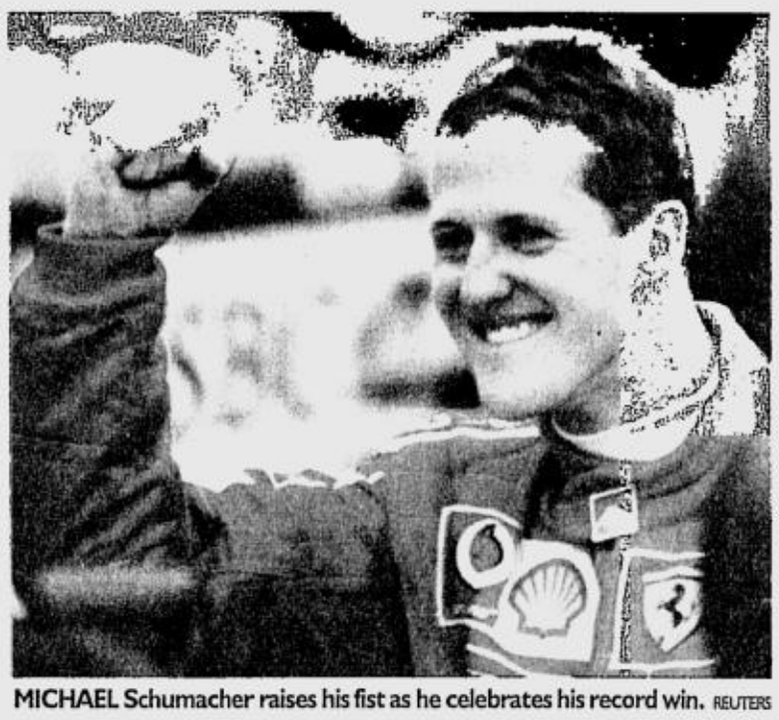
"How many times people wrote us off," Schumacher said. "And here we are. We're back. We never give up. We always fight. That is one of the big strengths of the Ferrari team."

"It is just one big family. We are all proud of being a part of it," Schumacher said.

Raikkonen said it best.

"I got second place again. It's not nice to finish second again but at least we didn't lose to a bad driver," said Raikkonen, who finished second in three of the last four races.

Raikkonen started the race on the fourth row in eighth place, with Schumacher on the seventh row in 14th. *AP*



MICHAEL Schumacher raises his fist as he celebrates his record win. REUTERS

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Tañamor settles for bronze medal

KARACHI, Pakistan—Harry Tañamor lost to his Hungarian foe as RP Team-Revicon settled for one bronze on Saturday in the Green Hill Cup Boxing Tournament at the PT Complex here.

Tañamor, 24, was clearly the best lightflyweight in his semifinal duel with PDL Bedak but the five-man jury opted to keep a blind eye and deny the Armyman from Tubunga, Zamboanga City a slot in the finals of this 12-national event via a highly questionable 20-22 score.

Sydney Olympics veteran Arlan Leri (bantamweight) and Navyman Junard Ladon (featherweight), like Tañamor, are among the best gold medal winners in the 1st Goa International Championship in India last week, Navyman Florencio Ferrer (lightwelter) and Warlito Parrinas (flyweight) all fell in the quarterfinals.

Antipas, North Cotabato native Lerio, the most veteran in he national team backed by Pacific Heights, Accel and the Philippine Sports Commission, also dealt Kim I-Hyunof South Korea some severe punishment but lost, 15-7, in the scorecards.

Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez, in a text message from Manila, said: "We are still very proud of you. Do not let this bad experience affect our mission to regain the boxing title in the SEA Games this year and our bid in the Asian Olympic qualifying in Palawan next year."

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BUSINESS

B1

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

September budget deficit hits ₱30B

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NATIONAL government spent P8 billion more than its expenditure ceiling for September, swelling the budget deficit for the month to more than P30 billion.

The government had set a spending cap of P69.55 billion for September while the revenue goal was placed at P47.47 billion. However, the government missed both targets.

"We have more than P13 billion in flexibility left as of August. I'm sure we have not used that up so we would still be below the nine-month target," Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said. As of August, the deficit was P113.56 billion against an eight-month ceiling of P127.1 billion.

The budget department said the government continued to settle in September contractual obligations unpaid in the previous months.

"We have sufficiently updated the account payables. We have used much of our flexibility to spend in the last three months. This is again a time for restraint," Camacho said.

For the first nine months, the gap between revenues and expenditures has reached P145 billion, or close to the P149.5-billion ceiling for the period.

While the deficit in the first three quarters was still below the target, doubts have been raised as to whether the government could meet the P202-billion full-year target if spending would continue its current trend.

Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, however, said that spending in the fourth quarter would track revenues "to ensure that the full year deficit target of P202 billion will be met."

"We will continue with the policy of calibrated spending. Historically, the fourth quarter is easier to manage because the validity of the notices of cash allocation would expire by yearend. In any case, most releases were already made," she said in an interview.

The government scrimped on expenditures and realized higher revenues during the second quarter, generating about P24 billion in savings as of June. But increased spending in the third quarter offset this.

The bureaus of internal revenue and of customs failed to meet their collection targets for September.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho noted that the mild shortfall estimated at P2 billion for the BIR and more than P400 million for Customs were offset by higher earnings of the Bureau of Treasury.

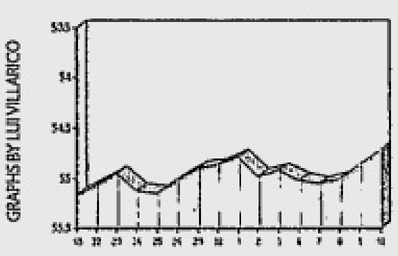
The budget deficit usually peaks in September because of higher interest payments. The target of P22.08 billion last month matched the actual gap in the same period last year.

The government had to pay a quarterly interest for borrowings like the P74.3 billion in retail treasury bonds and $750-million, 10-year global bonds sold in July.

Offsetting these debt payments is the interest income the Treasury gets from depositing the funds that have yet to be used to settle maturing loans.

GATORS

CURRENCIES



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱54.72 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 10, 2003

¥108.74 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Oct. 10, 2003

GOLD: $370.50-371.10

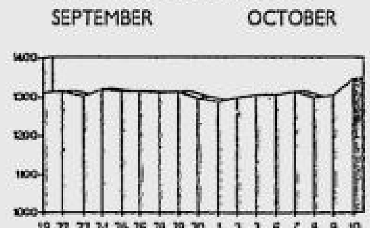
per ounce Hong Kong, Oct. 10, 2003

October 10, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.851716208	1.000000	54.963000
Japan	Yen	0.00781	0.009170	0.504000
United Kingdom	Pound	1.418789	1.665800	91.557400
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110243	0.129436	7.114200
Switzerland	Franc	0.646366	0.758898	41.711300
Canada	Dollar	0.635798	0.746491	41.029400
Singapore	Dollar	0.493978	0.579979	31.877400
Australia	Dollar	0.585573	0.687521	37.788200
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.259254	2.652590	145.794300
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.227131	0.266674	14.657200
Brunei	Dollar	0.492549	0.578302	31.785200
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000101	0.000119	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.02176	0.025549	1.404200
UAE	Dirham	0.231904	0.272279	14.965300
Euro	Euro	1	1.174100	64.532100
Argentina	Peso	0.299373	0.351494	19.319200
Brazil	REAL	0.300641	0.352983	19.401000
Denmark	Kroner	0.134621	0.158058	8.687300
India	Rupee	0.018848	0.022129	1.216300
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.224166	0.263193	14.465900
Mexico	New Peso	0.075863	0.089071	4.895600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.509339	0.598015	32.868700
Norway	Kroner	0.121547	0.142708	7.843700
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014812	0.017391	0.955900
South Africa	Rand	0.123257	0.144716	7.954000
Korea	Won	0.000742	0.000871	0.047900
Sweden	Kroner	0.111299	0.130676	7.182300
Syria	Pound	0.020279	0.023810	1.308700
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025326	0.029735	1.634300
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000534	0.000627	0.034500

STOCK MARKET

Follow-through buying seen

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

LOCAL stocks are seen to benefit from follow-through buying in the early part of the week in the wake of US President George W. Bush's Asian visit, but analysts warned that profit-taking could set in soon.

The main-share Philippine Stock Exchange composite index hit a new year-high last week, closing at 1345.20 or a gain of 3.1 percent on Friday from a week ago, fueled by broad-based buying by foreign investors.

"We'll be opening strong this week because of the arrival of President Bush, which is causing positive reaction on the country's situation," said Summit Securities president Harry Liu.

"But after that, there may be profit-taking toward the closing of the week. If the momentum would hold, then the market would consolidate above the 1300," Liu said.

He said the market would head toward the next resistance levels at 1380 to 1400, still likely to be led by bargain-hunting on selected stocks with good fundamentals like Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., San Miguel Corp., Manila Electric Co., First Philippine Holdings Corp., Ayala Land Inc., Petron Corp., Filinvest Land Inc. and SM Prime Inc.

"Second-liner stocks will follow but it depends on the volatility of the market," Liu said.

"On the medium- to long-term, however, I think the mode is still that of a consolidation. Investors are still looking at the political situation. We'll have to see it from there," he said.

Other traders said the buying sprees toward the closing of last week were led by investors who bought in anticipation of favorable corporate results for the third quarter. The rally was likewise seen in line with the rebound in the global equities markets.

Another factor seen to have contributed to the rise in share prices was the strengthening peso.

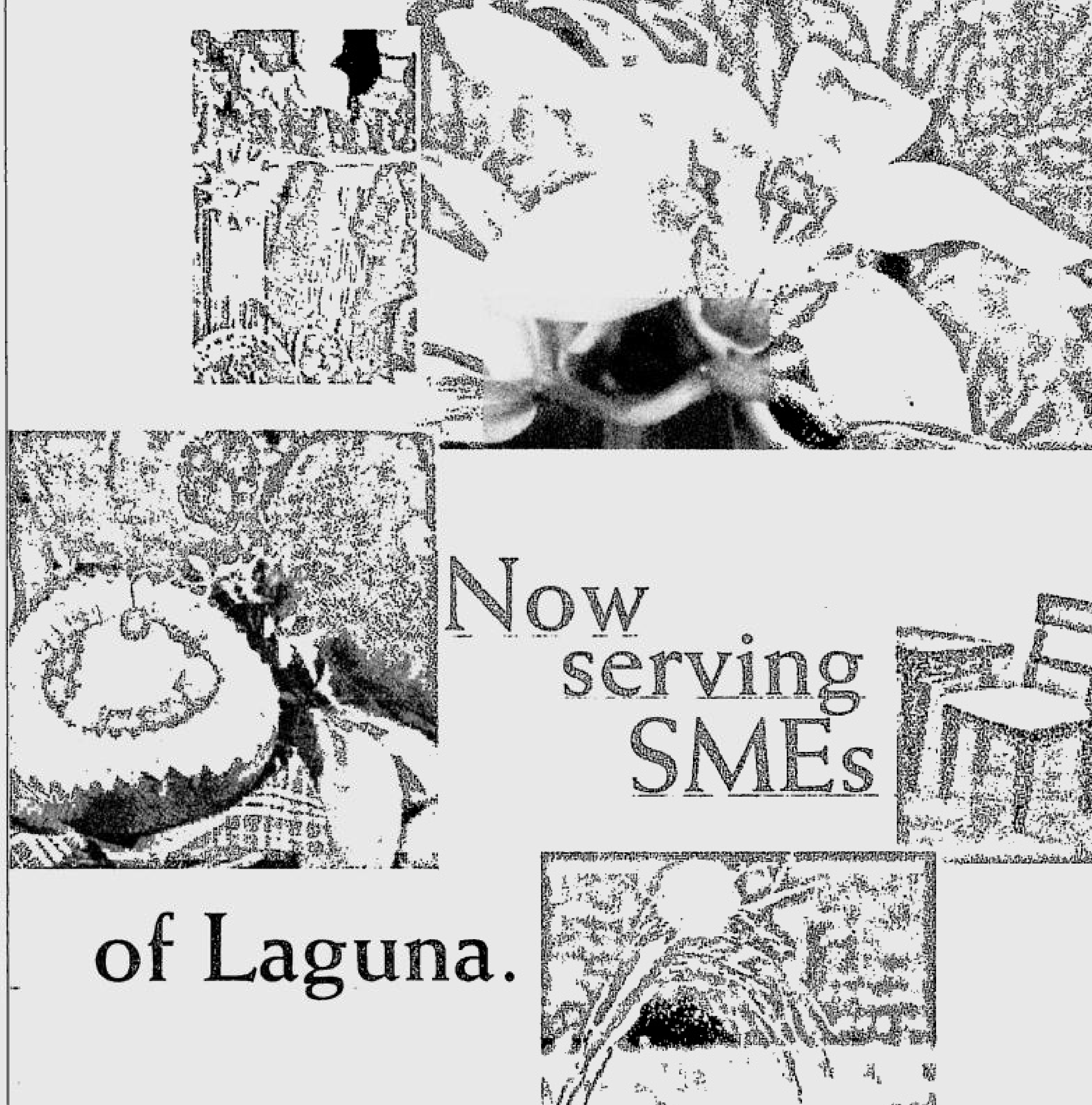
"Chartwise, Friday's close at 1345.20 continues to support the bullish picture in the near-term," said Jonathan Ravelas, chief strategist at Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

"Although the initial resistance is seen at the 1350 levels, we still see it testing the 1400-1450 range. Last week's expectation of a correction did materialize though but shallow, barely correcting to 1280-1290 as against our target of 1260-1270 level, an indication that the market has still some gas to sustain a test of the 1400 level," he said.

Web-based investment guide Philstocks.net said the run-up last week was a big surprise following concerns over domestic political squabbles and recent downgrades on the outlook for the Philippines.

FOLLOW-THROUGH/ B4

Plantersbank.



Plantersbank acquires The Region Bank (Los Baños Rural Bank, Inc.), expanding its reach and extending its services to more Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Laguna and the rest of the Calabarzon area.

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SSS seeks deal on sale of P27B in unpaid housing mortgages

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE SOCIAL Security System said it was finalizing an agreement with the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. and the latter's financial adviser, Ernst & Young, for the disposal of the housing firm's P27 billion in unpaid mortgages with the pension fund.

Among the groups interested in acquiring the housing loans were Lehman Brothers, Merill Lynch and the Carlyle Group, according to a banker familiar with the deal.

On top of the SSS mortgages, the NHMFC is also working out a similar arrangement with the Home Mutual Development Corp. (commonly known as Pag-Ibig Fund).

NHMFC is pressed to sell some P50 billion in soured housing loans lodged with the SSS and Pag-Ibig. Sources said the housing firm had offered a similar deal with the Government Service Insurance System but was turned down.

SSS president Corazon dela Paz said the agreement being negotiated would allow the pension fund to own about 20 percent in a joint-venture company that would be initiated by the asset manager to win in the bidding for the NHMFC mortgages lodged with the SSS.

Dela Paz said the asset manager that would buy the mortgages at the highest price would win. Asset managers usually buy soured accounts at a 70 to 80-percent discount.

NHMFC has defaulted on an P11-billion loan with the GSIS, the P27-billion loan with the SSS and billions of loans with the Pag-Ibig Fund.

The home and mortgage firm is mandated to act as secondary market for housing loans but had engaged in lending from the 1980s to the 1990s that led to its huge liabilities with the three state agencies. It hired Ernst & Young to do the inventory of all its liabilities so these could be sold to asset management companies.

The proceeds of the sale would be used to pay the SSS, the GSIS and the Pag-Ibig Fund.

Dela Paz said that of the P27 billion, only P10 billion in mortgages classified as hard-to-collect would be initially sold to an asset manager.

"There is a provision in the proposed agreement with NHMFC to put up a joint-venture company where the SSS could own about 20 percent so we could have a share in the upside and also to offset any losses from selling at a discount," Dela Paz said.

"We also intend to collect the 22-percent guarantee provided by the government to cover the losses incurred in carrying those mortgages," she added.

Dela Paz said the remaining two-thirds of the NHMFC liabilities with the SSS could be covered by a securitization transaction. This would involve the sale of asset-backed debt papers.

"The important thing for SSS is to collect on these loans that had been non-performing. The idea for the NHMFC is to settle its liabilities so agencies like the SSS and the GSIS would start lending again to the housing sector," Dela Paz said.

Car assemblers seek changes in export incentive scheme

By Michelle V. Remo

VEHICLE manufacturers have made a last-minute request for the government to expand the coverage of the Cabinet-approved export incentive package for the automotive industry before Malacañang gives the go-ahead for its implementation.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. (Campi) and the Truck Manufacturers Association (TMA) are asking the government to remove the minimum volume requirement for the granting of export incentives to a vehicle manufacturer.

The Board of Investments and the Department of Finance recently approved a support package consisting of $400 worth of incentive for every exported vehicle, provided an assembler commits to ship at least 10,000 units. The incentive will come in the form of discounts on tariffs that car manufacturers pay for their imports.

The paper detailing the export incentive package for the automotive industry has already been submitted to Malacañang for the President's approval and for the issuance of an executive order for its implementation.

Beyond the call of cutie

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

THESE days we see Gloriaetta on television regularly, giving interviews to news anchors by herself, meaning, without any of her many spin doctors. And "live" at that!

Keeping the public in tune with what is going on in the country, of course, is always part of the job of the President of the Republic.

But in her special news television appearances, Gloriaetta hardly deals with the new policy of this cute administration, if any.

The President of the Republic mainly talks about herself. At one point, discussing her plan for 2004, she even declares herself as...well, "viable."

Gloriaetta makes it sound like, you know, getting the highest position in the land is a business proposition.

* * *

CORRECT me if I am hallucinating, but for the President of the Republic to give live one-on-one exclusive interviews on television news is, I think, beyond the call of duty.

For one, it is unfair to other news organizations. Every outfit in our racket deserves to carry what the President of the Republic thinks, says, and does.

That's why, when the President of the Republic wants to say something, anything, to the nation, the Palace calls for a news conference, and everybody comes.

Gloriaetta must have her own reasons for giving those live exclusive interviews. They have nothing to do with politics at all. They only have something to do with 2004.

At issue with the public, as shown on those same news programs, is her very character. Interviewed on television news, the man in the street is calling her a liar.

* * *

WITH all the problems of this country, you would think that the President of the Republic could use all the 24 hours in a day to attend to important affairs of the state.

It is not easy to run a government, particularly ours, which is saddled with the debilitating problem of graft and corruption.

Our brand of graft and corruption is so vicious, international surveys are showing us to be among the most graft and corruption-ridden countries in the whole world.

You'd think that the President of the Republic would barely have the time for things other than just trying, even just trying, to lessen graft and corruption.

But it seems that, upon the advise of her spin doctors, Gloriaetta now sets aside more and more precious presidential time for live television news interviews.

I don't know if such an approach only serves to tell us something about this cute administration's sense of priority—that perhaps it has none.

* * *

OBVIOUSLY, Gloriaetta's television blitz is aimed at some damage control. That she is not true to her word, and thus she is not trustworthy, is her biggest public image problem.

Already on the downtrend, at least based on the latest survey, her popularity ratings do show yet the impact of her decision to run in 2004 on public opinion.

And so we hear a lot of explanation about it. Gloriaetta is running because the country needs her. It is also the fault of the opposition. And so on and so forth.

But come to think of it, Gloriaetta's real problem, why she is busy with live television appearances, is one of credibility. Hers may be shut.

And so how could her spin doctors now expect us to believe all those explanation, coming as they are from a person whose credibility, precisely, is under question?

* * *

AMONG her reasons, of course, and it is most probably prescribed by her many spin doctors, is the good showing of the economy. Alleged good showing!

Since the economy is doing well under this cute administration, according to the PR line, Gloriaetta just had to break her promise that she would no longer run in 2004.

It is as if, following the spin doctors' line, without Gloriaetta around, our economy will suddenly fall into a coma.

She and her boys love to talk about our economic growth rate. It is supposedly the highest growth rate which this country saw since the 1997 Asian financial crisis.

Nobody said anything about our neighbors, which are all doing much, much, much better than us. There, if they are not lying to us, they are misleading us.

* * *

MOREOVER, since we have fallen so far behind in the world development race, if we just grow at the present pathetic rate of 4-plus percent, we are just dying slowly.

Studies after studies already pointed out that our economy must grow by at least 7.5 percent a year to make a dent on poverty.

In other words, at our present growth rate of 4 percent, which is the source of pride of this cute administration, we are creating more and more poverty.

Such is clear from official figures on unemployment, which keep on increasing. We have almost 5 million unemployed. Add to that the number of UNDER-employed, and you can see that the actual jobless are actually more than 11 million.

Maybe that's why this cute administration goes beyond the call of cuteness, and it spends a lot of time going to poor areas, which are incidentally just vote-rich areas.

Going there, of course, this cute administration is bearing gifts, rice, land titles and dole-outs. In another place and time, you would have called it vote buying.

* * *

IN the real estate business, they are using a sales pitch on the environment. Whether it is becoming the trend in the sector, is too early to tell. The thing is, it is something new.

It used to be a contradiction in terms, for business, any business, particularly real estate development, to protect the environment, much less use it as a sales pitch.

But that seems to be the marketing strategy of the Fil-Estate Group for its Camp John Hay development in Baguio City.

As you know, Fil-Estate's subsidiary, Camp John Hay Development Corp., is building the 278-unit Camp John Hay Suites. Huge project, in short.

Times are bad still in real estate. How do you sell the project? The group thinks it pays to harp on the environment. Whew! Believe me, they are not cutting the trees!

* * *

AS the marketing arm of the project, the Fil-Estate group is trying to lure buyers with the city's scenery, fresh air, and even butterflies.

I am not kidding. A few months ago, the CJH Development opened a butterfly sanctuary at the former US military camp to the public.

And do you know who built it? Well, it's this guy who has an environment engineering degree from Stanford. In short, well educated, well paid.

Times indeed have changed. Today good environment means good business. At least in Camp John Hay.

VAT on raw cane sugar bucked

THE CONFEDERATION of Philippine Sugar Producers are seeking an exemption from the 10-percent value-added tax slapped on raw cane sugar that could eventually increase sugar prices.

In a recent Senate hearing, representatives of the sugar industry led by the Confederation of Sugar Producers Associations, the National Federation of Sugarcane Planters, the Panay Federation of Sugarcane Farmers, Philippine Sugar Millers Association and the Sugar Regulatory Administration were unanimous in stressing that subjecting raw sugar to VAT unduly increased its price, thereby making it more expensive to the poor consumers.

"The additional costs will be passed on to consumers. Some 30 percent of the total production of sugar is sold as raw for direct consumption and is being bought by low income consumers in the wet markets," SRA Administrator James Ledesma said in the same hearing at the Senate.

Representatives of the sugar industry noted that the new regulation included raw sugar in the definition of refined sugar by expanding its definition and subjecting it to VAT, which is contrary to the Tax Code. Sen. Ralph Recto, chair of the Senate committee on ways and means, has urged the Bureau of Internal Revenue to amend the BIR regulation, which imposed a VAT on raw cane sugar. *Christine A. Gaylican*

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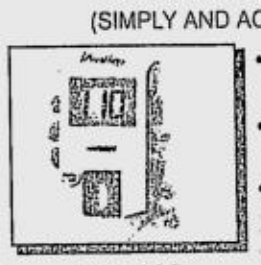

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GSIS gambit

IT LOOKS like political horse-trading will in the end save the day for Winston Garcia.

According to the grapevine, the appointment papers of cement scion Jose Cortes Jr. as president-general manager are all ready to be signed, but Malacañang may have to forgo the putative regime change pending the last stand taken by the besieged GSIS GM along with the politically powerful Garcias in Cebu.

Garcia flew to his island-province over the weekend to consult with his father, Cebu Gov. Pablo Garcia, whose political patron, Promdi's Lito Osmeña, has incidentally already announced his break from the People Power Coalition.

The besieged GSIS GM later announced that, upon the intercession of his father, he is scheduled to see President Macapagal-Arroyo tomorrow in Malacañang for what appears to be a make-or-break meeting.

A possible compromise is that Garcia, if he can persuade GMA that indeed the GSIS is now on a sounder footing because of his stewardship, may be allowed to remain in office but with the tradeoff that Cortes, the choice of Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, to move in as GSIS chair.

That scenario would mean the Erap appointee, retired septuagenarian Justice Hermogenes Concepcion Jr., has finally been persuaded to cut short his fixed term.

Had the original Garcia + Concepcion removal scenario succeeded—a long shot considering that the GMA term only has about eight months left—the plan would have paved the way for Chair Bernardino Abes of the Social Security System to take

COCKTALES/ B4

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- BMW signified also that the prices of the 316i and 318i models would not be lowered further, and we remain true to this statement.
- BMW's new re-aligned prices, effective 3 October 2003, support the Government's thrust to lower the prices of passenger cars in the Philippines.
- BMW advises customers that such prices cannot remain indefinitely due to high Peso devaluation against major overseas currencies, most notably the Euro.
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- BMW Philippines Corporation is a subsidiary of BMW Group, Germany.

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Cocktales . . .

From page B3

over as GSIS chair as well.

That scenario would have given new traction to a pending proposal, initiated during the Ramos years, to integrate the two pension bodies—a joint SSS-GSIS committee has actually been formed—and save on backroom, boardroom, and front office overhead.

The integration proposal was waylaid during the Erap regime, preoccupied as it was with hijacking instead the multibillion-peso pension funds for insider trading gains.

Prelude to Prado, Previa

FANS of Toyota Prado and Previa should have reason to rejoice.

Thanks to the reduction in excise tax, the two people-movers will definitely be reintroduced to the local market in time for the Christmas holidays.

According to the Toyota grapevine, the 4x4, diesel engine, automatic transmission Prado should cost around P2.5 million, assuming that the yen does not appreciate so much, while the Previa should be in the P1.5-million vicinity. Both the Prado and the Previa will be offered "fully loaded," as the upscale market had come to expect their everyday transporter to be.

Fans of the popular Land Cruiser may have to wait for next year, depending on the elections and the economy, as the Japanese workhorse even now will retail, despite the reduced excise tax, at P3.2 million--ouch!--cash.

Honda, on the other hand, is rumored to bring back the Odyssey, which is being used as a taxi in New York, as its answer to Previa.

Clean choice

FOLLOWING the clamor of the insurance industry, Malacañang has extended the term of Insurance Commissioner Eduardo Malinis, who was supposed to have retired last month when he turned 65.

Heard through the grapevine

MANY are being offered but so far none has considered accepting the hot seat that is the presidency of the Philippine Stock Exchange. Among those sounded off but declined the position is ACCRA partner Francis Lim.

The bigger question of course is, how come the supposed reform-oriented PSE board would not renew the three-year contract of PSE president Ernest Leung, a capable even if abrasive bureaucrat? *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

Follow-through . . .

From page B1

However, it said the local market had taken its cue on the US market, which reached a new 16-month high as a surprisingly large drop in the jobless rate and solid earnings from Yahoo! got the bulls going.

"Investors will be eagerly waiting for earnings reports in order to judge whether the recent stock rally is justified. If the third-quarter earnings should beat expectations, there could be further upward revisions for 2003 and 2004," Philstocks.net said.

"Investors will be increasingly focused on companies coming out with good earnings and they are the ones attracting investors. There have been few negative pre-announcements and a number of positive ones. Although investors will remain wary of lingering political concerns with the coming May elections, it doesn't appear to be enough reason for them to book profits. Still, a technical pullback next week should come as no surprise," it said. *Doris C. Dumlao*

BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS

To All Stockholders:

The Annual Stockholders' Meeting of the Baguio Country Club Corporation will be held on 6 November 2003 at 10:00 a.m. at the Baguio Country Club, Country Club Road, South Drive, Baguio City. The meeting shall be held in accordance with Article IV of the By-Laws with the following agenda:

1. Reading and Approval of the Minutes of the 2002 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
2. Approval of the Annual Report and Financial Statements for the Fiscal Year Ending 30 June 2003
3. Ratification of Corporate Acts
4. Election of Directors
5. Amendment of the Articles of Incorporation
   a. *Fourth Article* - to extend the corporate life of the Corporation for another fifty (50) years from its expiration on 19 February 2007, or until 19 February 2057; and
   b. *Second Article, Sections (e), (d-1) and (d-2), Seventh Article, the deletion of the Eighth Article and the re-numbering of the Ninth Article as the Eighth Article* - to update certain outdated provisions and to reflect the conversion of the Corporation from a stock, non-profit corporation into a non-stock, non-profit corporation
6. Appointment of External Auditor
7. Any Other Business

Only stockholders of record at the close of business on 24 September 2003 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting, either in person or by proxy. Proxies must be filed with the Corporate Secretary at the 19th Floor, 1st e-Bank Tower, 8737 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Metro Manila, not later than 5:00 p.m. of 29 October 2003.

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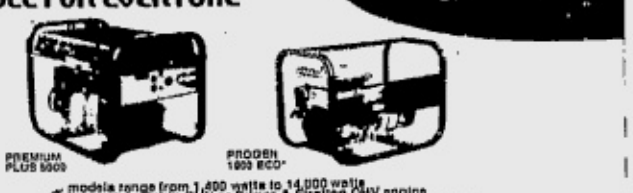

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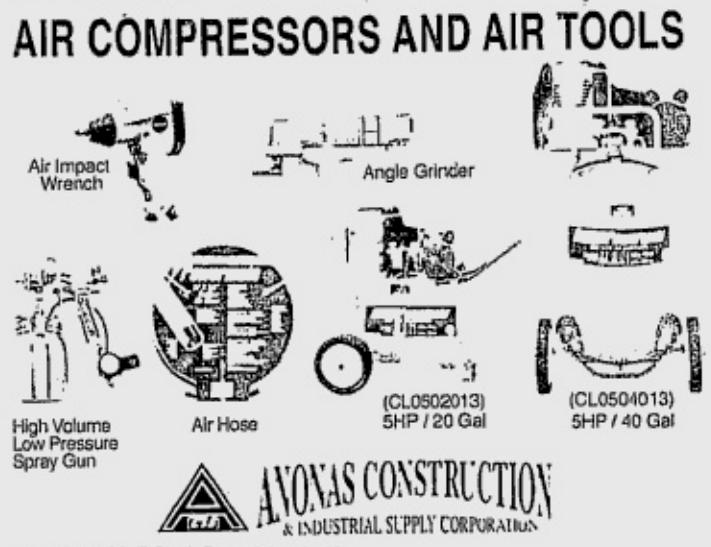

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As proof of ETV's effectiveness, *Sineskwela*, *Bayani* and *Hirayamanawari* have all been made mandatory viewing by the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, making ABS-CBN the first media company to have a joint venture with the public school system in improving the learning capabilities of the Filipino youth.

ABS-CBN also spearheaded a campaign to raise funds for bringing educational TV to public elementary schools nationwide. Close to 5,000 TV monitors and VHS players plus volumes of ETV tapes were distributed to 333 public schools in 35 provinces from Batanes to Zamaboaga since 1996.

By embarking on an extensive crusade to educate children by facilitating the production of curriculum-based programs and the implementation of television-assisted instruction in the classroom, ABS-CBN has indeed undoubtedly triumphed in satisfying the Filipino children's quest for knowledge.

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In The Service Of The Filipino

Napocor defers coal supply auctions

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE STATE-OWNED National Power Corp. has deferred auctions of coal supply contracts worth $32 million (about P1.76 billion) following concerns on the security of production in China.

The auctions were originally set for Oct. 21-22 for three contracts to deliver a total of 975,000 metric tons of coal for the 1,200-megawatt Sual plant in Pangasinan, 600-MW Masinloc plant in Zambales and 735-MW Pagbilao plant in Quezon.

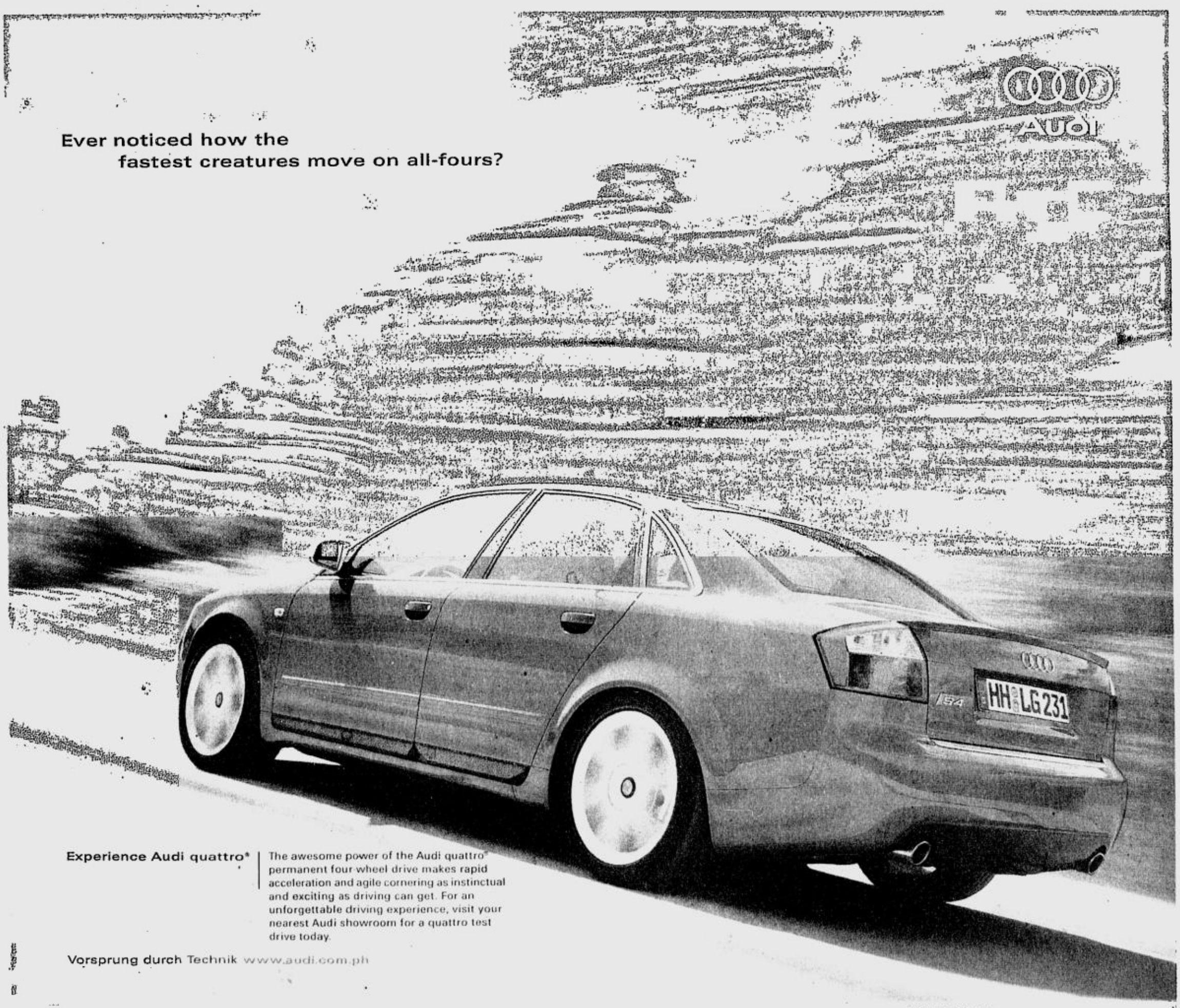
A Napocor official said in an interview that the state firm was sending a team to China to appraise shipping and production situations in the region.

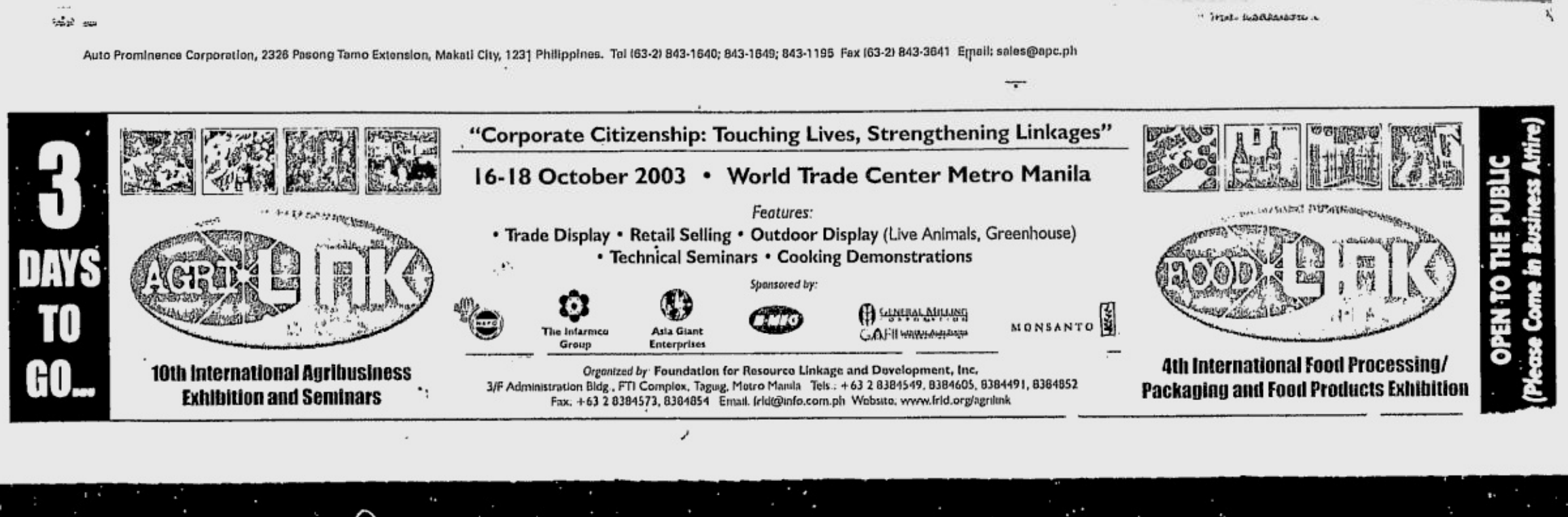
"(The company) decided to postpone the biddings until after we have become familiar with freight costs and production in China, whose suppliers win most of the Napocor contracts," the official said.

Chinese coal production has not recovered since an accident involving an explosion in Shanxi province last August, the source said.

"China is very rich in coal deposits, but there is not much diversity of sources since there are only three major suppliers. We want to make sure that they are able to meet their obligations if they win contracts."

Freight costs were also going up because of a shortage of ships to haul the fuel.





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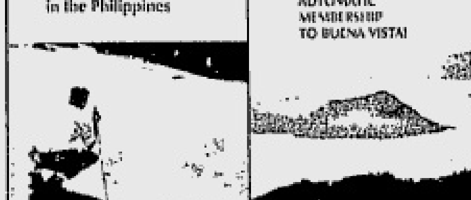

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ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	-	1.1M
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB		650K
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB "B"	60K	-
CAMP JOHN HAY	220K	
CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	450K	
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB		150K
CLUB FILIPINO		140K
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "B"		300K
EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "C"		350K
EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	96K	
FAIRWAYS & BLUE WATER	780K	
FOREST HILLS GOLF CLUB "A"	175K	
FONTANA "D"	50K	
MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250K	
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	please call	10.3M
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	-	10.8M
MANILA POLO CLUB		2.2M
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	460K	
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"		530K
METRO CLUB "A"	110K	
MONTEMAR BEACH CLUB		30K
PUNTA FUEGO	550K	400K
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	175K	
RIVIERA GOLF CLUB "A"	120K	
SPLENDIDO	300K	
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1.3M	
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF CLUB		750K
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	650K	-
VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	130K	
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	-	260K
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	please call	

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SEC License Broker #007575 * As of October 13, 2003

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,150,000	1,300,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	1,400,000
Baguio Country Club	600,000	680,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	-	60,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	60,000	-
Camp John Hay	230,000	260,000
Canlubang	450,000	500,000
Canyonwoods	-	150,000
Capitol Hills	160,000	170,000
Cebu Country Club	1,200,000	Please Call
Celebrity Sports Club	150,000	200,000
Club Filipino	140,000	175,000
Evercrest "A"	-	80,000
Forest Hills "A"	175,000	200,000
Forest Hills "B"	-	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	300,000
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,000,000	12,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	10,000,000	10,300,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,300,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	350,000	450,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	550,000	600,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	450,000
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	100,000
Mimosa (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	250,000	275,000
Montemar (Individual)	25,000	35,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	170,000	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"		500,000
Puerto Azul	-	100,000
Quezon City Sports Club	Please Call	200,000
Rockwell	330,000	380,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	60,000	120,000
Sherwood Hills "B"	-	160,000
Sherwood Hills "C"	-	180,000
Spa & Lodge	520,000	700,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,100,000	1,300,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)		220,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	120,000
Tagaytay Country Club	350,000	400,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	850,000
Tagaytay Midlands	650,000	700,000
Valle Verde (Individual)	100,000	140,000
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	250,000
Valley Golf	250,000	330,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,000,000	7,000,000

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CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Camp John Hay	-	250,000
Orchard "C"	-	250,000
Celebrity Sports	170,000	-
Fairways Blue Waters	-	150,000
Forest Hills	Pls. Call	180,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	220,000
Manila Golf (Indv.)	9,000,000	-
Manila Golf (Corp.)	10,000,000	-
Manila Polo	2,200,000	-
Manila Yacht	-	450,000
Mimosa	-	280,000
Montemar (Ind.)	-	35,000
Philippine Columbian	90,000	-
Punta Fuego	500,000	850,000
Quezon City Sports Club	165,000	-
Riviera	300,000	-
Royale Tagaytay (Corporate)	-	165,000
Tagaytay Midlands	750,000	800,000
Tagaytay Country Club	320,000	380,000
Valley Golf	250,000	270,000
Valle Verde((Indv.)	120,000	Pls. Call
Valle Verde (Corp.)	180,000	300,000
Wack Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	7,000,000

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Remittances and the economy

NO FREE LUNCH

Cielito Habito

REMITTANCES are perhaps the least understood component of our national income accounts. Some like to say that our economy is kept afloat only by these funds pouring into the country from millions of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). Is it really?

Beyond OFWs' wages

Overseas Filipino workers' (OFW) remittances are part of a larger item called Net Factor Income from Abroad (NFIA), which, simply put, means incomes of Filipinos earned abroad minus incomes of foreigners earned in the Philippines. This item represents the difference between gross domestic product (GDP), which measures all output or income generated within our domestic territory by Filipinos and foreigners alike (i.e. Gawa Dito sa Pilipinas), and gross national product (GNP), which measures all output or income of all Filipinos, wherever they may be (i.e. Gawa Ng Pinoy).

Included in NFIA are other forms of income earned by Filipinos abroad. These include rental income, as in those earned from houses or buildings abroad owned by Filipinos. They also include interest income, that is, earnings of Filipino-owned capital placed in the foreign capital markets. Also included are dividends and profits, i.e. earnings of Filipino-owned capital invested in equity markets and real direct investments abroad. While OFW wages and salaries indeed dominate NFIA, the share of these other forms of overseas income has actually been growing.

Assessing their contribution

It is impossible to determine the exact volume of actual remittances because much of these continue to flow in through informal channels that official statistics cannot keep track of. While this share has declined over time, we still cannot accurately assess their significance in the overall macroeconomic performance.

Critics of government's management of the economy often lament that OFW remittances are all that's keeping the Philippine economy afloat. This is being a bit too unfair, though. Through the years, growth in domestic output (i.e. GDP) has consistently accounted for the greater part of growth in our national income (GNP), even in past years of slow economic growth, with GNP growth typically exceeding GDP growth by just about one percentage point. Admittedly, part of GDP itself is also fueled by remittances through consumption and investment expenditures that they fund.

It is therefore important to know what proportion of total household consumption expenditures and of total expenditures is financed by OFW remittances. With these two items dominating GDP, this would tell us how much of domestic output growth can be attributed to OFW remittances. This is a question worthy of careful research, but some quick calculations tell me that they still cannot dominate the growth in domestic demand, so as to be the only factor keeping the economy above ground. Nonetheless, all this does not diminish the recognition for our OFWs as modern day heroes of the Philippine economy.

Where are remittances coming from?

One would instinctively expect that the bulk of OFW remittances would come from the Middle East, which is still the prominent destination for OFWs. Also emerging is Asia, particularly our more affluent neighbors like Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Singapore, which now accounts for about half. Surprisingly, the data show the bulk of remittances coming from the United States. In a recent paper, Professor Stella Go of De La Salle University explains that it is the stock, and not the flows, of migrant Filipinos that determines the volume of remittances from a particular country. The US, she observes, has the largest stock of Filipino migrants, even if it accounts for a miniscule portion of the flows. But an important factor here is the fact that remittances done through a US correspondent bank shows up in the official accounts as coming from the US, even if it originated from somewhere else. It remains unclear how much this has to do with the apparent dominance of the US as a source of remittances.

Where are they going to?

Professor Go also observes that higher income groups, urban areas and more wealthy regions of the country tend to have greater incidence of families with primary income coming from abroad. One might be led to infer that poorer families and regions and rural areas are missing out on the benefits of overseas employment and remittances. On the other hand, the data could also be a reflection that previously poor families have in fact been lifted out of poverty with the migration of a family member—and so now appear in the statistics as being among the middle and even high income groups. It is also possible that families lifted out of poverty by income sent from abroad tend to move out of the rural areas, thereby biasing the observation and misleading us to think that rural-based families are missing out on migration income. Similarly, it is possible that more migration income is seen in wealthier regions because it is precisely the foreign-earned income that helped make those regions more wealthy—i.e. by fueling demand and therefore increased production and incomes.

Clearly, economic research has barely scratched the surface in analyzing the significance of remittances in the Philippine economy.

Send comments to chabito@ateneo.edu

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of October 10, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	17.75	18	17.75	18	18,600
Bank of the Phil. Islands	43	45	43	44.5	1,011,300
Citystate Savings Bank	15	15	15	15	2,300
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	34.5	33.5	34	151,200
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.71	0.71	330,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	27.5	28.5	27.5	28	428,100
Philippine National Bank	26	27	26	27	202,300
Phil. Savings Bank	27	27	27	27	4,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	32	32.5	32	32.5	2,300
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1580	1600	1580	1600	190
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	117,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1250	1265	1250	1260	1,220
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	26.5	28	26.5	27.5	136,700
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.67	0.71	0.67	0.71	2,350,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	705	725	700	725	63,950
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.046	7,000,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	7,800,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.74	0.77	0.74	0.77	11,320,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	685	700	685	700	190,440
Ivantage Corp.	0.41	0.41	0.41	0.41	250,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	62,700,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.75	15.25	14.75	14.75	686,200
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22.25	22	22.25	2,246,400
Petron Corp.	2	2.04	2	2.04	5,053,000
Salcon Power Corp.	2	2	2	2	40,000
Trans-Asia Oil And Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	40,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	86,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	1,029,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	190,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.64	1.66	1.64	1.66	3,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.78	0.8	0.78	0.8	40,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	4,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31	31	30	30	43,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	16.75	17.25	16.75	17.25	717,500
San Miguel Corp. A	54	56	54	56	186,500
San Miguel Corp. B	61.5	63	61.5	63	660,100
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	4.7	4.85	4.7	4.85	9,557,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	3.4	3.45	3.35	3.45	3,608,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.031	0.034	0.031	0.034	2,500,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	20,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.61	0.65	0.61	0.64	7,180,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	660,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.15	0.14	0.15	100,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.29	2,370,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.02	0.033	0.02	0.033	3,400,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	100,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	18	18.75	18	18.75	1,285,800
Ionics Inc.	1.7	1.72	1.66	1.72	678,000
Macroasia Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	150,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.97	1.06	0.97	1.06	32,650,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.31	2,060,000
Music Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	3,520,000
Nextstage Inc.	2.85	2.85	2.85	2.85	263,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,000,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	400,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	2,400,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.34	0.35	100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.46	1.46	12,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.98	1	0.98	0.98	90,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0775	0.095	0.0775	0.095	1,300,000
Pryce Corp.	0.16	0.2	0.16	0.2	770,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	20,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	9,790,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	250,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	27.5	28.5	27.5	28	631,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,300
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,900
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,500
Philweb Corp. - Warrants	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	80,000,000
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5	5	5	5	21,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.2	6.4	6.2	6.3	10,558,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	800,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	15,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.195	0.2	2,330,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.185	0.195	0.185	0.19	1,330,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.24	0.25	0.24	0.25	10,290,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	0.5	0.51	0.5	0.5	2,170,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.08	1.12	1.08	1.12	7,690,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	100,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	300,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.175	0.18	0.17	0.18	740,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.7	6.4	6.7	24,705,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	13,810,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.235	0.225	0.23	11,820,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.28	20,550,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.008	0.0085	0.0075	0.0085	298,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.008	0.009	0.008	0.009	334,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	34,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	790,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.33	0.36	0.33	0.36	2,830,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	0.0032	13,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0034	0.0034	0.0032	0.0032	3,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	20,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	650,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	2,269,010	70,316,515.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	270,034,190	482,929,615.00
PRO	61,028,000	244,243,460.00
Mining	715,850,000	17,972,050.00
OIL	16,670,000	152,700.00
GRAND TOTALS :	1,065,851,200	815,614,340.00

	AVERAGES	
Bank & Fin Svc	445.40	UP 10.21
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,971.75	UP 57.78
PRO	592.37	UP 23.95
Mining	1,601.81	UP 82.85
OIL	1.39	UNCH 0.00
SME	100.00	UNCH 0.00
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Composite	1,345.20	UP 41.54

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Technology company sees net profits starting 2004

By Doris C. Dumlao

TECHNOLOGY upstart IPVG Corp., which will debut on the Philippine Stock Exchange before the year ends, expects to start reaping profits from its media and IT investments by next year.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, IPVG president Enrique Gonzales said: "Our projects are profitable but now, our investment requirements are greater than our cash flow. We're looking at 2004 onwards as our path to profitability."

The company, which was put up in 2000 as Adobo Interactive, is an IT incubator providing capital and management expertise to fresh ventures such as dating portal Match.com, SMS-based gameshow application provider Next Sequel Interactive, and sports betting firm Advance Gaming Venture.

The company is also active in TV production. It launched last week a new TV series "Single Girls" on RPN-9, a local version of American series Sex and the City. It has also produced other TV shows such as "Match TV" (RPN-9), "Textmates" (RPN- 9), and "Half Time" (IBC-13).

During the last two years, Gonzales said the company has spent P20 million for new projects, but noted that its capital expenses would double in line with its expansion plans. For next year, the company will start providing IT solutions for education and entertainment this year as well as for financial services.

After completing a merger deal with publicly listed MBf Inc. earlier this year, Gonzales said the company was working on a P50-million capital infusion and seeking all the regulatory approvals to implement a backdoor listing by November or December.

The firm resulted from a "reverse takeover" of MBf, which bought IPVG but the latter's shareholders ended up with a 75-percent control of the former. MBf and the public will continue to own 25 percent of IPVG, which will assume the listed entity.

"We are raising close to a $1 million to be used to invest in new projects," Gonzales said, noting that the capital infusion through a private placement would be completed before the company's debut.

Gonzales said IPVG's businesses would still have a long way to go in the Philippines because there was still a lot of room to increase cell phone and Internet application.

"Less than 5 percent of the country is online and only 20 percent of the population has cell phones. There is room for growth. The Philippines won't probably be completely online for the next 10 years, he said."

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Think tank doubts '04 fiscal targets

By Clarissa S. Batino

The Congressional Budget Planning Office, the research group of the House of Representatives, has warned legislators that the P197.8-billion budget deficit target submitted by economic managers as part of the 2004 budget was unrealistic and the government would likely miss the goal by about P35 billion.

The Congressional think tank believed that the revenue assumptions for 2004 were too optimistic because they already factored in the following: the transfer to the national government of the P14 billion Marcos Swiss account; the additional collection of P12 billion from pieces of revenue legislation that have yet to be passed, and a very rosy economic growth target.

The CBPO believed that the gross domestic product would only grow by 4.2 percent in 2004 against the economic team's target of 4.9 to 5.8 percent. Thus, the research team believed that next year's revenue target would be off the mark by about P6 billion.

The CBPO wanted Congress to review whether the rosy economic targets included in the 2004 budget could sustain the programmed decline in the budget deficit next year from the ceiling of P202 billion this year.

A steady decline in the budget deficit is crucial to meeting the government's goal of bringing down the fiscal gap to zero by 2010. The target is to bring down the deficit-to-GDP ratio from 4.7 percent this year to 4.2 percent in 2004.

But the CBPO's estimate of a higher deficit next year would bring up the ratio again to 5 percent.

Another deficit blowout, similar to last year when the gap hit P210.7 billion against a ceiling of P130 billion, will jeopardize the country's medium-term development plan, worsen an already deteriorating debt picture, and drive away more investors.

Revenue next year is expected to hit P671.19 billion while expenditures were placed at P868.99 billion. The projected revenue in 2004 is 13.3 percent higher that the P530.76 billion this year.

Of the total earnings in 2004, the Bureau of Internal Revenue must deliver 73 percent or P488.64 billion. This amount is 15.2 percent higher than this year's target of P424.01 billion.

The CBPO pointed out that in the last five years, the BIR's collection had grown by an average annual rate of only 4.7 percent. This year, however, BIR's revenue collection increased by about 11 percent as of August compared with the previous year's level.

The Congressional think-tank doubted whether the BIR could exceed next year its 2003 revenue target.

The research group was concerned that the government seemed too confident of raising 90 percent of next year's revenue from taxes when the tax effort had dropped to an all-time low of 12.9 percent of GDP in 2002.

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Citystate Savings Bank, Inc.

Statement of Condition
As of September 19, 2003

ASSETS	AMOUNT
Cash & Cash Items	31,584,730 56
Due From Bangko Sentral	12,848,487 90
Due From Other Banks	36,926,844 67
Interbank Loans Receivable	270,000,000 00
Loans, Discounts & Advances (Net)	445,880,405 66
Available for Sale Sec.-Govt. Others	216,000,000.00
Investments in Bonds and Other Debt Instruments (Net)	14,686,512.83
Bank Premises, Furniture, Fixtures and Equipment (Net)	97,190,148.72
Other Assets (Net)	
Property Owned/ Acquired	65,176,591 01
Others	61,325,178 55
TOTAL ASSETS	1,251,628,108.10
LIABILITIES	
Demand Deposits	71,047,245 62
Savings Deposits	649,041,623 38
Due to BSP	155,494 51
Managers Check	10,981,861 11
Accrued Interest, Taxes & Other Expenses Payable	5,361,404.36
Unearned Income & Other Deferred Credits	436,723 74
Other Liabilities	9,027,225 99
TOTAL LIABILITIES	746,050,578.31
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS:	
Capital Stock	441,000,000 00
Paid-In Surplus	2,222,444 00
Surplus Free	40,236,802 42
Undivided Profits	22,118,283.37
TOTAL CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	505,577,529.79
TOTAL LIABILITIES & CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	1,251,628,108.10
CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS:	
Items Held For Safekeeping	5,627 00
Items Held As Collateral	430 00
Late Deposits / payments received	271,936 89
Deficiency Claims Receivable	1,434,382 42
Outward Bills for Collections	61,081 67
Outs. Guarantees Issues - Others	4,665,269 92
TOTAL CONTINGENT ACCOUNTS	6,438,727.90

COMPLIANCE WITH MAGNA CARTA LAW:

Prescribed Rates of Compliance	6% For Small Enterprises	2% For Medium Enterprises
Actual Compliance	110 38 %	357.45 %

OTHER INFORMATION: (CB Circular 208)	
Non-performing loans and	43,806,604 27
Ratio to total Loan Portfolio	6 01%
Classified loans and other risk assets	43,806,604.27
General loan loss reserve	6,991,602 55
Specific loan loss reserve	5,951,579.47
Return on equity (ROE)	6 50%
DOSRI loans/advances	12,486,050.15
Ratio to total loan portfolio, and	1 71%
Past due DOSRI loans/advances and ratio to total portfolio	NIL

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We Eduardo O Olavario and D Alfred A Cabangon, solemnly swear that all matters set forth in this report are true and correct to the best of our knowledge and belief

Sgd. EDUARDO O. OLAVARIO VP - Comptroller
Sgd. D. ALFRED A CABANGON President

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Doc No. 306
Page 62
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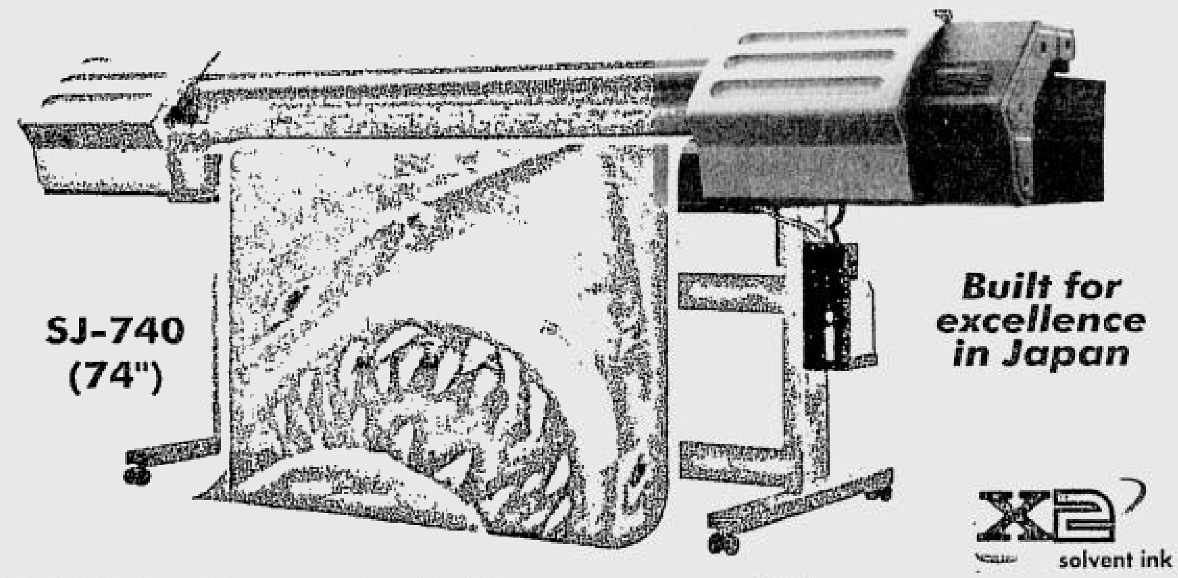

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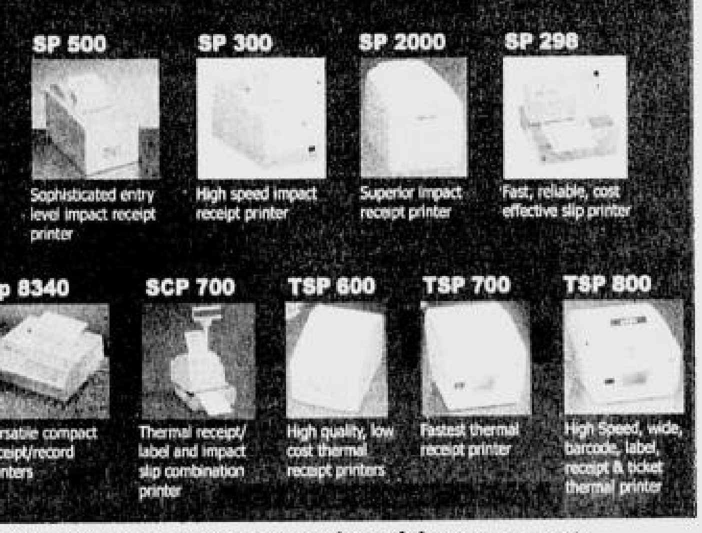

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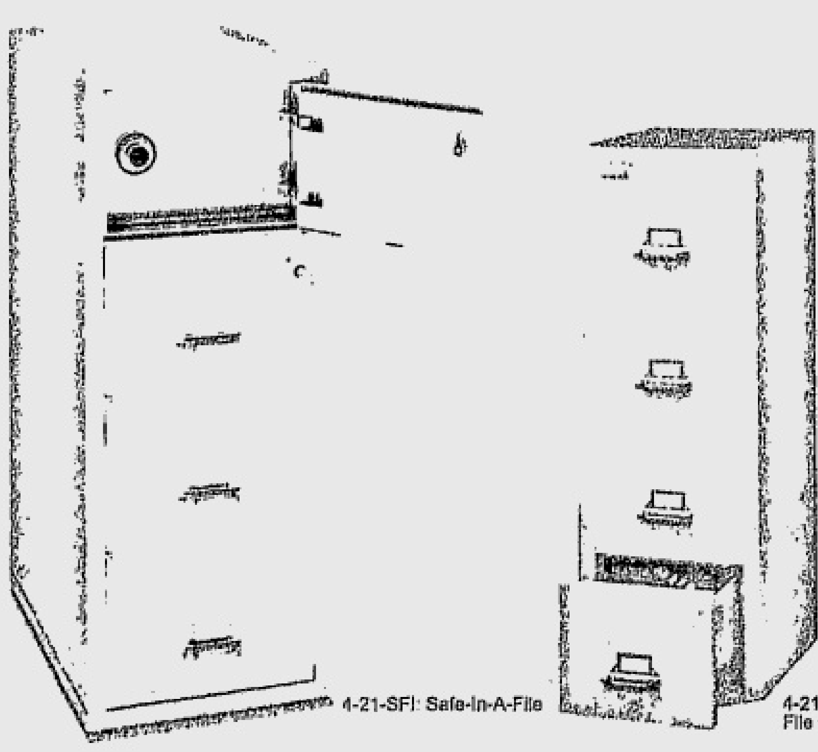
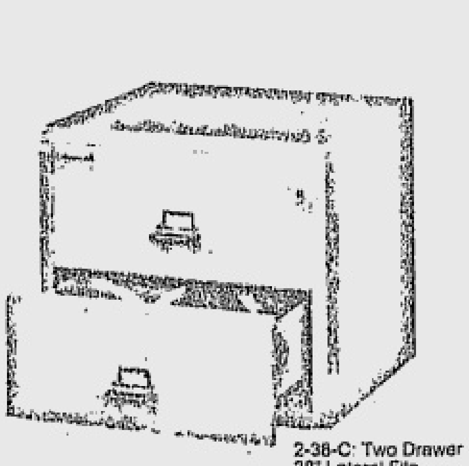
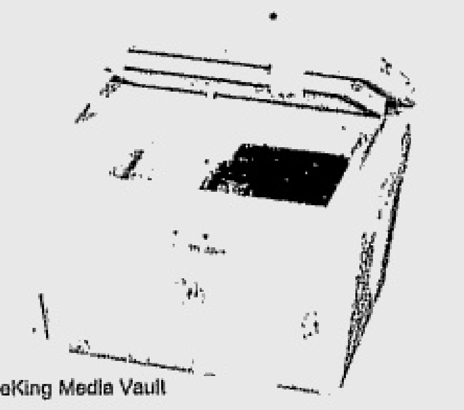


4-21-SFI: Safe-In-A-File

4-21-4C: 4 Drawer Vertical File w/ 4 Individual Lock



2-38-C: Two Drawer 38" Lateral File



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LRTA set to bid out $841-M light rail project

By Abigail L. Ho

KEEN on finally getting the Light Rail Transit Line 1 extension (LRT 6) project off the ground, the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) last week submitted to the Department of Justice recommendations on how to conduct the bidding for the $841-million contract.

The DOJ issued an opinion earlier in the year that the project should go through a Swiss challenge as Canadian engineering-construction firm SNC-Lavalin International's offer to do the project was unsolicited.

A Swiss challenge will give other interested entities a chance to submit their offers. The original proponent will have the right to match the best offer.

"We feel that the proposed project cost is too big. We're currently working on the amended and restated settlement agreement with SNC-Lavalin. We have also submitted our recommendations to the DOJ so that the bidding can push through as soon as possible," LRTA administrator Teodoro Cruz Jr. told the INQUIRER.

SNC-Lavalin late last year threatened to pull out of its joint venture agreement with the LRTA as the LRT Line 1 extension project, which will extend the existing LRT Line 1 to Bacoor in Cavite, showed no clear signs of taking off.

But a settlement agreement was reacjed by the LRTA and SNC-Lavalin on Jan. 9, extending their joint venture agreement for another 90 days.

With the DOJ opinion subjecting the project to a Swiss challenge, the LRTA and the Department of Transportation and Communications will then have to prepare the terms of reference for the project's auction.

In an earlier interview, Transportation Assistant Secretary Robert Castanares said SNC-Lavalin would seek compensation from the government should it lose to another entity in the Swiss challenge auction for the LRT 6.

This compensation would cover what the Canadian firm had spent for feasibility studies on the railway extension project.

The LRT Line 1 extension project will add another 11.7 kilometers to the existing Line 1 running from Monumento in Caloocan City to Baclaran in Parañaque City.

The first phase of the project will extend the line to Bacoor, Cavite which has a projected ridership of 400,000 passengers per day. It may later continue to Imus and Dasmariñas.

The 11.7-km extension project will be started in 2004 and completed in 2007.

Other railway projects in the pipeline are the phase 2 of the $785-million LRT Line 2 project from Cubao in Quezon City to Recto in Manila, the Metro Rail Transit Line 4 from Old Bilibid in Manila to Novaliches in Quezon City, and the $50-million South Commuter Line rehabilitation project.

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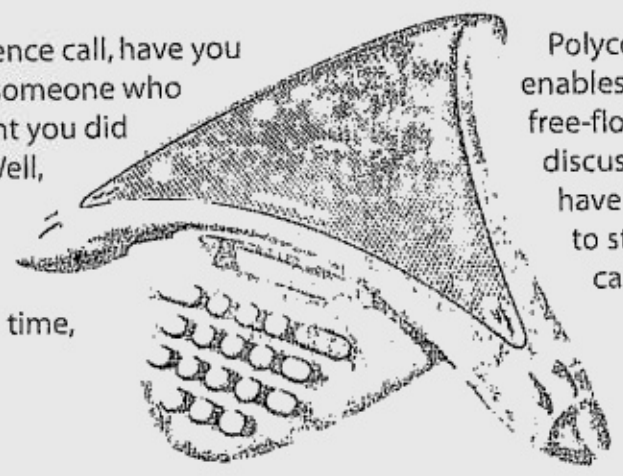

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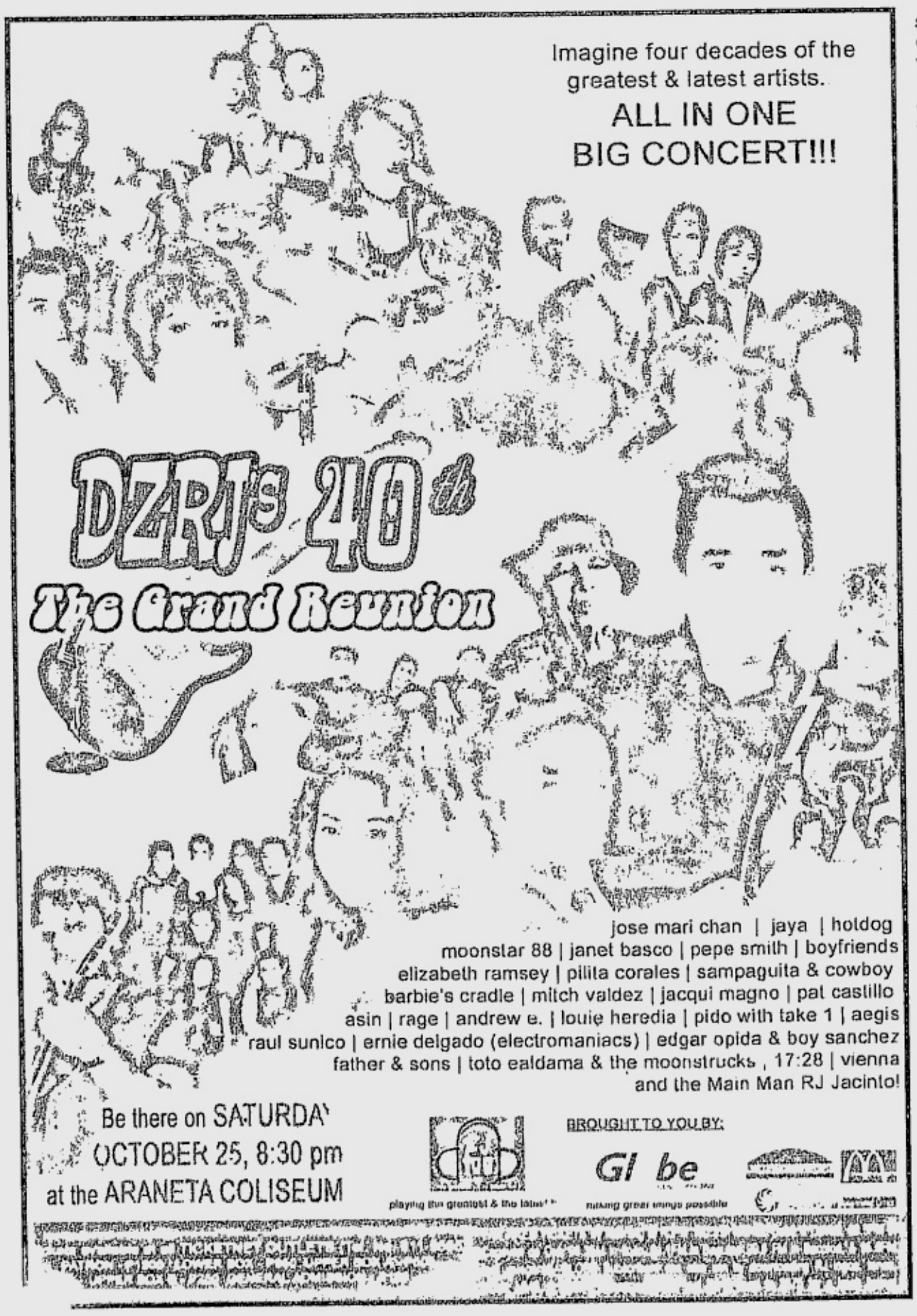

Insurance and money laundering

QUESTIONS OF POLICIES

Honesto C. General

MONEY laundering has been in the news these past few weeks. I am sure a lot of people are asking, "Just what is money laundering?"

By sheer coincidence, the Anti-Money Laundering Council which was set up in 2001 under Republic Act 9160, and amended last March by Republic Act 9194, has just come out with a revised set of implementing rules.

Money laundering is cleaning up of dirty money. Profits from illegal businesses like smuggling, drugs and *jueteng* are dirty money. These profits are in cold cash (nobody bets on *jueteng* with a check) and has to be kept hidden. To bring the money out in the open so that it can be spent or invested legally, it has to be transformed into clean money by making it appear as having come from a legitimate source. This transformation process is called laundering.

One way to launder money is to use it to pay for the premium of an insurance policy where there is a return of premium clause.

For example, a *jueteng* lord can buy, in cash, a single premium 20-year endowment policy for himself, or, if he is not insurable by reason of health or his occupation, for his grandson. In this policy, the premiums for the 20-year period are telescoped into a lump sum, payable at the beginning of the policy. The single premium on a P100-million policy is a substantial washing machine.

After a few months, the entire cash value is taken out as a policy loan, and the insurance company cannot turn this down. The loan is clean money. He can repay the loan with dirty money and borrow it later and he has clean money again. This way, he can continue putting in dirty money and taking out clean money.

Or, so as not to attract any attention, he can simply surrender the policy. The policy is cancelled and he gets the entire cash value, which is clean money.

The *jueteng* lord does not even have to buy a policy. If he has a friend with a big life insurance policy, the *jueteng* lord can offer his dirty money to pay for the annual premiums. Then, his friend takes out a policy loan. This loan is clean money.

Or, a smuggler buys a large annual personal accident policy. After a month, he cancels the policy and gets a refund premium corresponding to the eleven months. The refund is clean money. But this transaction is small potatoes as accident premiums are quite modest.

Another possible vehicle for money laundering is the surety bond. To issue the bond, the bonding company requires collateral in cash. Dirty money is used as the collateral. When the bond expires, the cash collateral is released. This is clean money.

Or, a fire insurance policy form is stolen from company files, or is printed on the sly. The policy is issued to cover a non-existent high-rise building. Of course, the premium is bloated to several million pesos. The premium is paid in dirty money and a fake official receipt is issued. After a month, the policy is cancelled and the premium corresponding to the eleven months is refunded. This refund is clean money. But this transaction is quite complicated, requiring an unscrupulous insurance broker, agent or company employee. Thankfully, these characters are quite rare.

Under the anti-money laundering rules, all premium payments of more than P500,000, especially if in cash, will have to be reported on a prescribed form. I think the rules should also require the reporting of premium refunds or policy loans of more than P500,000.

The anti-money laundering law and the implementing rules are the Philippine contribution to the worldwide crusade against organized crime by making money laundering more difficult.

Ford to launch 3 new models

By Michelle V. Remo

FORD Motor Co. Philippines is set to launch three additional vehicle models after the government gave the assurance that it would approve the export incentive package for the local automotive industry.

Ford Philippines will be launching Ford Everest, Ford Escape 3 liter and Ford Lynx 20 liter RS during the visit of Ford Motor Co. chair and chief executive officer William Clay Ford tomorrow.

The car maker had batted for the immediate implementation of the Executive Order No. 156, which was signed in December 2002, which provided support mechanisms for the local automotive industry. The measure was aimed at encouraging the industry to export completely built vehicle units (CBU).

Ford is currently the sole CBU exporter in the country.

With the assurance of getting export incentives, Ford had pledged to push through with its plan to jack up its exports and make the Philippines a major car exporter in the Southeast Asian region.

Ford recently rolled off its 10,000th vehicle for export. With the export incentive, the company is targeting to increase its exports by as much as 700 percent to reach 100,000 units of exported vehicles per year in the next five years.

The models currently covered in Ford's Vehicle Export program are the Escape, Lynx, Mazda Tribute and Mazda 323.

The Board of Investments and the Department of Finance recently approved the details of the export incentives for the local automotive industry. The paper has been submitted to Malacañang for approval and issuance of its implementing order.

The incentive, said the BOI, will come in the form of discounts on the tariffs paid by a car manufacturer for the importation of raw materials. The incentive will amount to $400 per 10,000 units of exported vehicles.

Napocor power output up 3.5%

By Ronnel W. Domingo

NATIONAL Power Corp. said its electricity production for the first half of the year went up by 3.5 percent to 19,577.5 gigawatt-hours from 18,934.7 gWh in the same period last year.

Napocor attributed the increase in production to higher demand for electricity during the summer season.

The company's sales and services department reported that coal-fired power plants accounted for the biggest share of the total output at 32.4 percent or 6,337 gWh. This, however, represented a 9-percent decline from an output of 41.4 percent or 7,835 gWh last year.

The decline was attributed mainly to a three-week-long shutdown of the 600-megawatt Masinloc plant's Unit II due to fuel constraints.

The power firm noted that natural gas-based production showed a dramatic growth in terms of share in the generation mix, reaching 12.4 percent from 3.45 percent year-on-year.

Geothermal plants registered the second-largest share in the generation mix with 26.6 percent or 5,208 gWh although this also reflected a decrease from 27.4 percent a year ago.

Production from hydro plants was 14.8 percent of the mix or 2.892 gWh during the first six months of the year, down from 15.86 percent.

Napocor traced the decline to the very low production levels from hydro plants during the dry season. It expects hydro power to pick up by 2 percent in the second half on account of recent typhoons and heavy rainfall predicted for the next few months.

Other types of generators notched the following shares in the mix: diesel, 9.56 percent, up from 6.47 percent last year; oil thermal, 2.56 percent down from 2.72 percent; combined-cycle, 1.65 percent, down from 2.53 percent; and gas tubine, 0.08 percent down from 0.14 percent.

Luzon-based plants accounted for 64.5 percent of production in the first half. Visayas plants posted 19.3 percent and Mindanao plants 16.2 percent.

RP-SOUTH KOREA
Delay in air talks expected

By Abigail L. Ho

THE AIR talks between the Philippines and South Korea may be delayed anew as Seoul has yet to respond to the Philippine panel's invitation just two weeks before the schedule.

The Philippine panel had scheduled the air talks with South Korea for Oct. 29 and 30.

"They (South Korean panel) haven't accepted the invitation saying our proposed schedule might be in conflict with some of their scheduled activities. They want to have the talks on the first or second week of November, although there is no official correspondence yet stating that," a source said.

However, the Philippine panel is inclined to stick to the Oct. 29-30 schedule until its South Korean counterpart rejects this with finality.

Air talks with South Korea were originally slated for June 18 but negotiations were pushed back to the fourth quarter because of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome outbreak.

In the forthcoming negotiations, the source said the Philippine panel would push for the conversion of frequency entitlements into capacity entitlements, which will allow more flexibility for both countries' carriers.

Under the current set-up, weekly entitlements are frequency-based. Right now, local carriers mount 17 flights weekly. Their South Korean counterparts are entitled to the same number of flights per week.

The source said these 17 flights were all fully utilized by local flag carriers Philippine Airlines Inc. and Cebu. After South Korea, the Philippine panel will be holding air talks with Palau and China, the source said. Meetings will also be held with the Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines-East Asia Growth Area (BIMP-Eaga) member-countries.

Air talks with Japan will be held next year, he said.

Electric co-ops tapping ₱100-M IFC loan

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A GROUP of electric cooperatives are in talks with the International Financing Corp. (IFC) for a possible P100-million loan for rural utilities' upgrading and maintenance projects.

Wilfredo Billena, president of the Rural Electrification Financing Corp. (REFC), said that the group had also secured grants amounting to $894,000 from US sources.

"Talks with the IFC are ongoing, but it has yet to decide on the requested loan," Billena added.

In a talk during the PowerTrends 2003 forum held in Manila last September, IFC country manager Vipul Bhagat said the lender was considering getting involved in rural electrification.

The INQUIRER tried to reach the local IFC office for update, but officials were not available at press time.

In the meantime, Billena said the US Trade and Development Agency and the US-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (Nreca) International have approved grants for technical assistance to the country amounting to $446,909 from each.

The Iloilo-based utility executive said the USTDA grant would cover consultancy expenses on the viability of proposed projects while the Nreca grant represented in-kind services aimed at the development of the REFC as an institution.

Ronnel W. Domingo

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Rules on listing via introduction to be modified

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has paved the way for the listing via introduction of the Philippine Stock Exchange, large oil firms and other companies that were required by law to go public.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the SEC would direct the PSE to expand the proposed rules on listing by introduction to cover not only foreign firms with a wide base of shareholders but also similarly situated domestic companies or local firms mandared by law to go public.

Without the amendments, the rules would not cover the PSE, which has over 100 brokers as shareholders, Bautista said.

The SEC has ordered the PSE to list its shares before the end of this year and officials of the exchange have assured this would be done.

The SEC believed that the listing by introduction would pave the way for brokers to sell their PSE shares to third parties, allowing the exchange to move closer to complying with a requirement in the Securities Regulation Code that no industry group should own more than 20 percent of an exchange.

The expansion of the proposed rules on listing by introduction would also give Shell and Caltex, two out of the country's "Big Three" oil firms, and companies registered with the Board of Investments to go public.

Joseph Roxas, head of brokerage house Eagle Equities, said the SEC move would defeat the objective of the legislative provisions that required certain companies to go public. Roxas said that such provisions in the country's laws aimed to provide wider dispersal of wealth.

A listing by introduction, however, would not allow the transfer of shares from covered companies' current shareholders to the public at large.

Gov't seeks cut in fees slapped on RP banks in US

A PROPOSAL to reduce the fees charged by the United States government on Philippine banks and remittance centers will likely be one of the highlights of the upcoming state visit of US President George W. Bush on Oct. 18, according to Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho.

In return, the Philippine government will vow to clamp down on terrorist financing and other forms of money laundering on its shores.

Camacho said banks and remittance centers in the US were being charged $1 million each. "That is too expensive," he said.

The finance chief said the Philippine government would ask Bush to take the lead in advocating to the different states to waive the fees.

A memorandum of intent to improve and strengthen Filipino remittances from the US was forged by Camacho and US Treasury Undersecretary John Taylor during the May state visit of President Macapagal-Arroyo to the United States.

Government officials are hoping Bush could help bring down the remittance fees of Filipinos in the US, ranging from $5 to $30 for every transaction by waiving costly licensing and application fees charged on Philippine banks and remittance centers.

The US government, according to sources, could also ask US correspondent banks to reduce the service fees charged on accounts of Philippine banks that handle remittances.

There are close to 2 million Filipinos in the United States who regularly send dollars to families and relatives in the Philippines

Clarissa S. Batino

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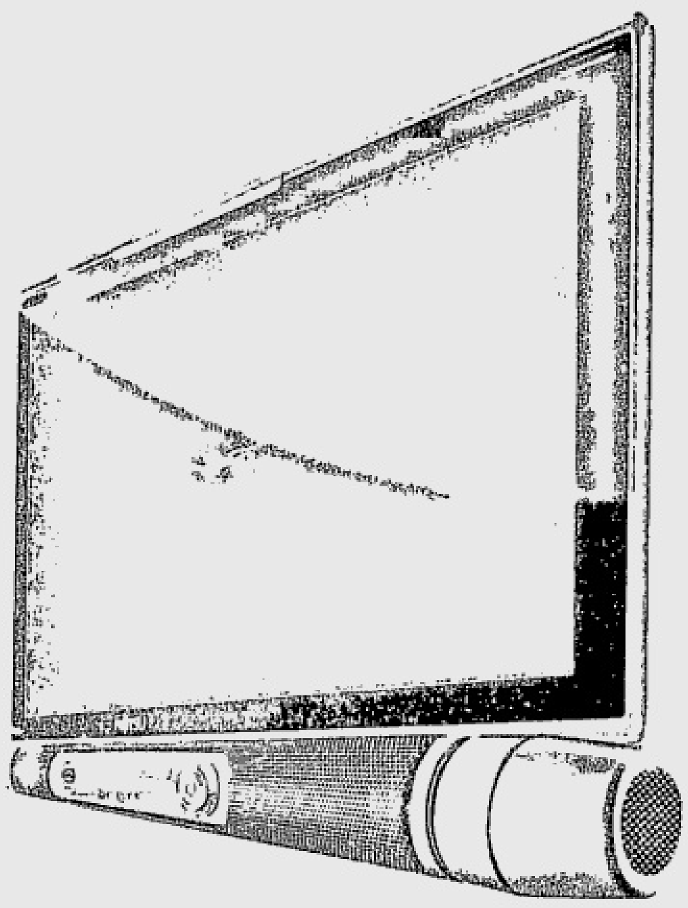

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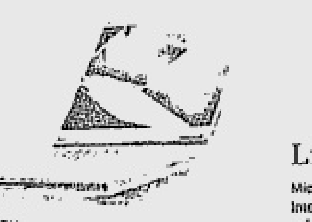

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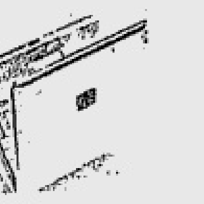
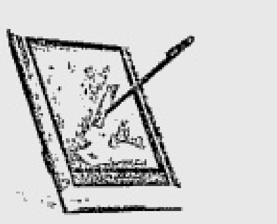
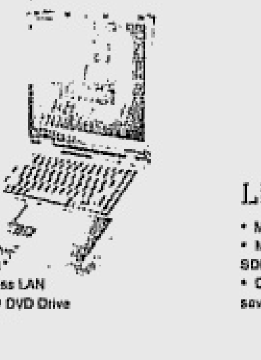


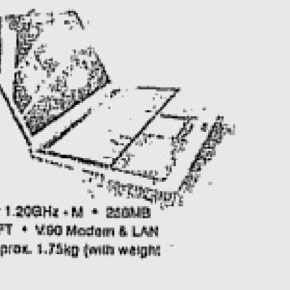
LifeBook S6120
Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
Intel® Centrino™ Mobile Technology
• Intel® Pentium® M processor 1.60 / 1.40Ghz • Intel® PRO / Wireless 2100 Network Connection • Intel® 855GM Chipset
• 512 / 256MB DDR266 • 40 / 30GB HDD • 13.3" XGA TFT
• Combo Drive (DVD & CD-RW) • Hot Swappable Modular Bay
• V.92 Modem & LAN



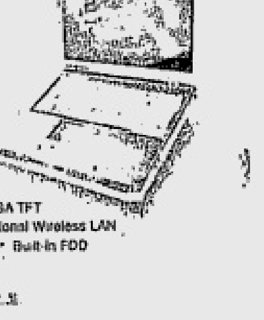
Stylistic ST4120
• Microsoft® Windows® XP Tablet PC Edition
• Mobile Intel® Pentium® III processor 933MHz - M (Ultra Low Voltage) • 256MB SDRAM • 40GB HDD
• 10.4" XGA TFT Colour • Active Digitiser • V90 Modem & LAN • Integrated Wireless LAN • Approx. 1.48kg



LifeBook E2010
• Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
• Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 2GHz - M • 256MB DDR266 • 30GB HDD • 14.1" XGA TFT • V.90 Modem & LAN • Optional Wireless LAN
• Ext. USB FDD • Combo Drive (DVD & CD-RW) / DVD Drive



LifeBook S6110
• Microsoft® Windows® XP Home
• Mobile Intel® Pentium® III processor 1.20GHz - M • 256MB SDRAM • 30GB HDD • 13.3" XGA TFT • V.90 Modem & LAN
• Combo Drive (DVD & CD-RW) • Approx. 1.75kg (with weight saver option)



LifeBook C2210
• Microsoft® Windows® XP Home • Mobile Intel® Pentium® 4 processor 2.20 / 2GHz
• 256MB DDR266 • 30GB HDD • 14.1" XGA TFT
• V90 Modem & LAN • Wireless LAN / Optional Wireless LAN
• DVD-RW / Combo Drive (DVD & CD-RW) • Built-in FDD

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JUSTICE FOR THE JUDICIARY!

Strengthen the Rule of Law.

Law and Order Lead to Progress and Economic Prosperity.

Justice must be administered without undue delay because justice delayed is justice denied. Denial of justice creates a negative impression of courts and ultimately erodes the public's faith and confidence in the judicial system.

Among the principal reasons causing the problem of clogged dockets is unfilled vacant positions due to unattractive and non-competitive compensation for court magistrates. Millions of Filipinos have been denied their basic right to speedy disposition of cases before all judicial courts.

The passage of the Conference Committee Report on Senate Bill No. 2018, seeking to grant special allowances for justices and judges will aptly address not only the plight of the judiciary, but ultimately, will spur the swift dispensation of justice.

In fact, based on the figures of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC), applicants for judgeship positions increased dramatically in anticipation of the passage of the said measure. This development, we believe, will finally address the huge vacancies now plaguing the courts wherein nearly half (44%) of all first-level courts nationwide have no judges.

Consequently, this will rebuild people's trust and confidence in the Judiciary. Eventually, criminality will give way to law and order and investors' confidence will be addressed. With this in place, the Judiciary bill will directly contribute to the recovery of the national economy.

To the Honorable Members of Congress, we earnestly ask that you immediately approve the bill granting special allowances to members of the Judiciary.

The future of the Judiciary will determine the future of the country and it is in your hands. We fervently plead that you take heed of this appeal.

Thank you.

PHILIPPINE BAR ASSOCIATION
INTEGRATED BAR OF THE PHILIPPINES (IBP)
PHILIPPINE JUDGES ASSOCIATION (PJA)
METROPOLITAN AND CITY JUDGES ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (MCJAP)
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ADVT

Gov't sees more coco oil exports

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE GOVERNMENT expects higher export earnings from coconut oil due to the anticipated rise in world market prices to between $420 and $500 per metric ton.

Philippine Coconut Authority Administrator Danilo Coronacion attributed the increase to the surge in the demand for vegetable oils—including palm and soybean oil—over the next six months.

Demand for vegetable oils usually peak during the winter months, particularly this year when production from other countries was reduced due to natural calamities.

Coronacion said coconut oil, the country's top agriculture export, would beef up the scarce world supply of vegetable oils.

"The supply of other vegetable oils, specifically soybean from North America, is threatened to be cut down by frost, while a drought is expected to hit production in Latin America," he said.

Coronacion added that demand from China would further push up prices in the world market.

"The world is scrambling for vegetable oils and we would be there to fill up this demand," he said.

The country competes against Asian countries such as Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India in the coconut oil export trade.

Local production was estimated to hit 2.3 million metric tons of which 1.9 million metric tons would be exported by the end of the year.

The volume of coconut exports rose by 16 percent to 1.541 million metric tons in the first nine months of the year, from 1.331 million metric tons recorded in the same period last year.

PCA data indicated that the country earned some $537 million from the shipment of various coconut-based products between January and September, up by 26.15 percent from year-ago earnings of $426 million.

The export of copra meal, widely used in food and feed preparation, reached 346,922 metric tons or up by 20.63 percent from last year's 287,592 metric tons worth $18 million.

San Miguel ruling to further dampen investor confidence

By Michelle V. Remo

THE ALLEGEDLY politically-motivated Sandiganbayan ruling that lifted the sequestration of the 20-percent share in San Miguel Corp. being claimed by Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. could further reduce investor confidence in the Philippines.

This was the warning made by think tank Wallace Business Forum, which pointed to various political and governance problems in the country as the major culprits behind the country's poor economic competitiveness.

Peter Wallace, president of the Wallace Business Forum, said it was to be expected that the ruling would be questioned since most of the justices that ruled in favor of lifting the sequestration order were appointees of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Some government officials, including Senators Joker Arroyo and Aquilino Pimentel Jr., believed that Malacañang had a hand in the issuance of the ruling to ensure that Cojuangco would not run in the 2004 election and would throw his support behind President Arroyo, who has said that she would run in next year's election.

"Politics has always been an issue in this country. If it wants to attract investments, the government should ensure that the business environment in the country encourages fair competition because investors look for a place that promotes a level playing field and is free from political considerations," he said.

In the 2003 World Competitiveness Survey released by the International Management for Development, the Philippines' competitiveness ranking fell four notches to 22 among 30 economies with population greater than 20 million from last year's 18.

According to the preliminary results of the Wallace Business Forum's 2003 Annual Corporate Survey, most of the multinational company-respondents said the Philippines compared poorly with its counterparts in the Asean region in terms of its attractiveness as an investment site.

Multinational companies pointed at corruption, political instability, security problems, bureaucratic red tape and inconsistent government policies as some of the major deterrents to doing business in the Philippines.

Crown Equities signs deal with Sta. Lucia

By Doris C. Dumlao

A UNIT of investment holding firm Crown Equities Inc. has entered into a joint venture deal with Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. to develop a 28-hectare property in Biñan, Laguna.

CEI president Danilo Venida disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange that its subsidiary Crown Central Properties Corp., a joint venture with Solid Share Holdings Inc., had signed a memorandum of agreement with Sta. Lucia.

Under the MOA, Sta. Lucia will develop the property into a middle-class residential subdivision within three years, Venida said.

CEI, formerly known as Southeast Pacific Rim Resources & Development Corp., was organized in 1969 to engage in mining exploration and development. In 1995, the company shifted focus from oil exploration to investment holding and eventually changed its corporate name to Crown Equities in 1996.

The company, which has been incurring losses, has over P1 billion worth of real estate assets as of March this year. Some of its properties were used to reduce its liabilities. Most of its revenue were derived from interest income from cash advances to affiliates.

The CEI management is likewise considering the sale of its 44 percent stake in Ceres Homes Inc. to a group of property developers.

Privately held Sta. Lucia, on the other hand, develops residential, resort and golf and country club estates across the country.

Banco de Oro raises $150M from debt notes

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANCO de Oro Universal Bank, the financial services arm of the SM Group and the country's ninth largest lender, recently raised $150 million from the issuance of five-year debt papers.

Oversubscribed by 7.5 times—the largest oversubscription for a first-time issuer—the notes had a semi-annual coupon or interest rate of 6.5 percent, the lowest in the history of offshore Philippine bond deals.

The five-year notes carry a put option in the third year and have been rated Ba2 by Moody's Investors Service.

UBS Investment Bank was the sole underwriter of the notes that are currently listed in Singapore.

Banco de Oro noted that the bookbuilding process for the bond issue was one of the fastest, generating an order book of over $750 million in three days.

As the first senior notes issue of the Philippines since the Asian financial crisis, the transaction essentially opened the market for Philippine banks looking for quick, effective and efficient funding sources.

Banco de Oro originally intended to borrow only $100 million, but increased the offer to $150 million due to the clamor from investors and the low interest rate.

"The outcome was simply exceptional—the low yield, the oversubscription and the speed of execution," said Teresita Sy-Coson, chair of Banco de Oro.

President Nestor Tan added that "the high level of participation by international institutional investors is a clear endorsement of Banco de Oro's prudent growth strategy."

BDO officials led by Tan conducted a three-day roadshow in Manila, Hong Kong and Singapore to drum up interest for the notes.

Most of the institutional investors that subscribed to the issue came from Asia, with some takers from Europe and Australia.

Half of the issue went to private banks, 32 percent to asset managers, 15 percent to other banks and 3 percent to insurance companies.

SBMA turns over power system to consortium

By Michelle V. Remo

THE SUBIC Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) has turned over the electric power distribution system of the Subic Bay Freeport to the newly-formed private sector consortium Subic Enerzone Corp.

SBMA Chair Felicito Payumo announced that the consortium, composed of Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc. and Davao Light and Power Co. Inc., would assume the operations of the electric power distribution system by Oct. 25.

With its takeover of the electric power distribution system, Subic Enerzone Corp. has committed to rehabilitate, restructure and expand the system over the next five years, Payumo said in a statement.

He added that the turnover agreement between SBMA and Subic Enerzone would also assure the government of at least P40 million in annual earnings from rent.

Payumo said SBMA was optimistic that the privatization of the electric power distribution system would aid in Subic's efforts to attract additional investments as it would assure the supply of electric power at a lower cost.

"We have very high hopes for the privatization of the Freeport's power distribution as we look forward to the excellent service that Subic Enerzone would be rendering to our locators and residents here in Subic," Payumo said in a statement.

Subic Enerzone president Jaime Jose Aboitiz assured the SBMA that the consortium would immediately act on the possible reduction of power rates as soon as it takes over the electricity distribution system.

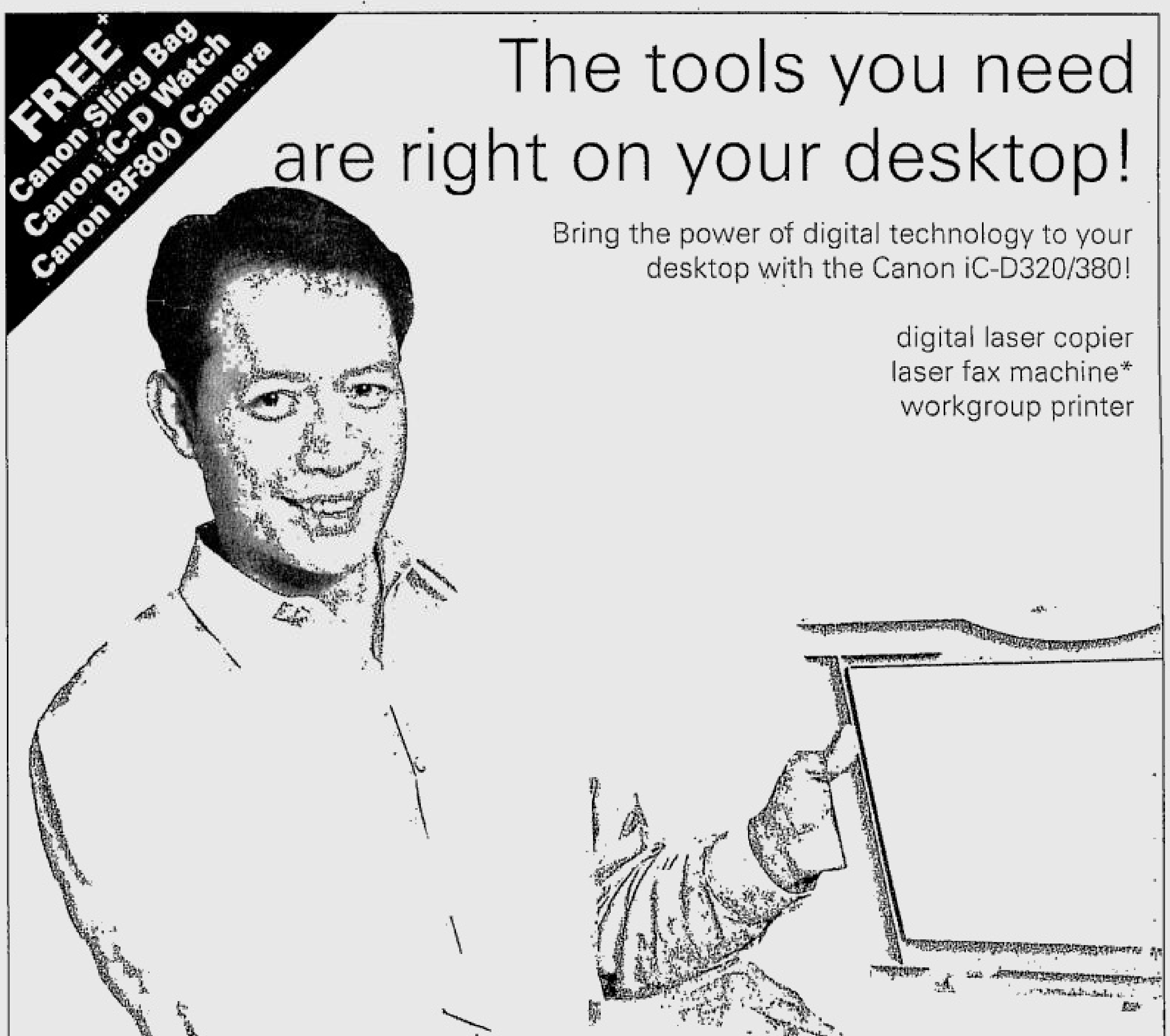
"Investors are looking forward to a rollback in power rates and more efficient power supply. That would mean a lot of savings for them, particularly for multinational companies engaged in the manufacturing business," Aboitiz said.

Company estimates showed that major manufacturing firms in Subic, such as Wistron Infocomm Philippines, would enjoy over P700,000 in monthly savings under the new power rates Subic Enerzone Corp. planned to charge.

On the other hand, non-industrial establishments like the Legenda Hotel and the Subic Bay Yacht Club were expected to cut electricity costs by P420,000 and P184,000, respectively.

With the proposed power rate reduction, SBMA is seen to have one of the cheapest electricity rates in the country, which would be set at a maximum P3.90 per kilowatt-hour.

The figure is 59 centavos lower than the P4.49 per kWh currently charged by SBMA. It is also lower than the P6.02-per-kWh rate charged in Metro Manila, the P5.39 in Zambales, the P4.78 in Pampanga, and the P5.20 in Bataan.



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2003

People, Events & Products

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Editor Aries Espinosa

GSIS grants emergency relief to members

AS THE Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) continues to reconcile its records with the different government agencies, the state pension fund has opened its emergency loan window to members who may be affected by the ongoing reconciliation and are in dire need of financial assistance.

"This is one solution that we hope to offer to our members who may need immediate relief," said Robert Agustin, GSIS vice president for social insurance.

Under the loan program, GSIS members may apply for an emergency loan worth P10,000 starting Oct. 13. All members, even those with existing loans with the GSIS, may avail themselves of the emergency loan window.

The emergency loan will carry an interest of 10 percent per annum, still lower than prevailing bank loan rates, with a maturity of two years. This would translate to an amortization of about P500 a month.

The loan applicants would not have to go to the GSIS offices to apply for the loan but would just have to apply with the liaison officers of their respective agencies. These liaison officers would also be responsible for getting the approved checks from the GSIS and distributing them to the member-borrowers.

Agustin noted that while the GSIS would like the process of updating and reconciling members' records to be as painless as possible to its 1.5 million members, it was inevitable that some members would have to be affected by the ongoing computerization process.

Following a series of dialogues with the Philippine Government Employees Association (PGEA), GSIS formed a 100-man task force to reconcile its records with the different government agencies.

PGEA represents 112 government workers' union and has been voted the official representative of government workers in the Home Development Mutual Fund, or Pag-Ibig Fund and the National Anti-Poverty Commission.

Many GSIS members are complaining about the salary loan releases made by the Fund. GSIS has explained that it has fully restored its operations and even made the processing of loan applications faster following the upgrade in its computer system. The revitalized computerized system, however, revealed several problem accounts that constrained the GSIS to deny some loans applications or approve lower amounts.

MONTEREY, FRANCHISEES' CONTRACT SIGNING

Monterey Foods Corp president Arthur O. Juan reiterated the company's support for entrepreneurs and consumers during a reception for franchisees held recently. The get-together celebrated the renewal of ties between Monterey and the meatshop franchise holders. Juan assured Monterey's commitment to the industry through its Neighborhood Meatshops that provide opportunities and financial security to entrepreneurs, and offer consumers a complete selection of Monterey's fresh-chilled meats and ready-to-cook dishes. If you want to join the Monterey family, call Monterey meatshop development at 634-1010 local 1748. Shown are (from left) Joel B. Arellano, national meatshop operations and sales manager, Arlene P. Ledesma, marketing, franchising and sales manager, Rebecca M. Celles, franchisee, Monterey Taytay Market Site, Juan, and Mon A. Sanedrin, meatshop operations and sales head.

Warner Bros conducts first-ever consumer products tradeshow

FOR MANY years, Warner Brothers has been making a significant presence on film, home entertainment, music, publishing, retail and consumer products. Most recent products of Warner Bros. include the biggest theatrical hit series, "Harry Potter", "The Matrix", Cartoon Network's "The Powerpuff Girls", "Dexter's Laboratory" and "Samurai Jack". Then there are the classics-"Looney Tunes", "Baby Looney Tunes", "Scooby Doo", "Tom & Jerry", and the superheroes of DC Comics: Batman, Superman and the Justice League.

Recently, Warner Bros consumer products and its local representative Bates Licensing Entertainment Inc launched the first-ever licensing tradeshow putting together all the best-loved characters and products in one venue. "Tom & Jerry" apparel, "Powerpuff Girls" paraphernalia, and Justice League action figures were just a few of the products that drew retailers, and consumers alike, to the venue.

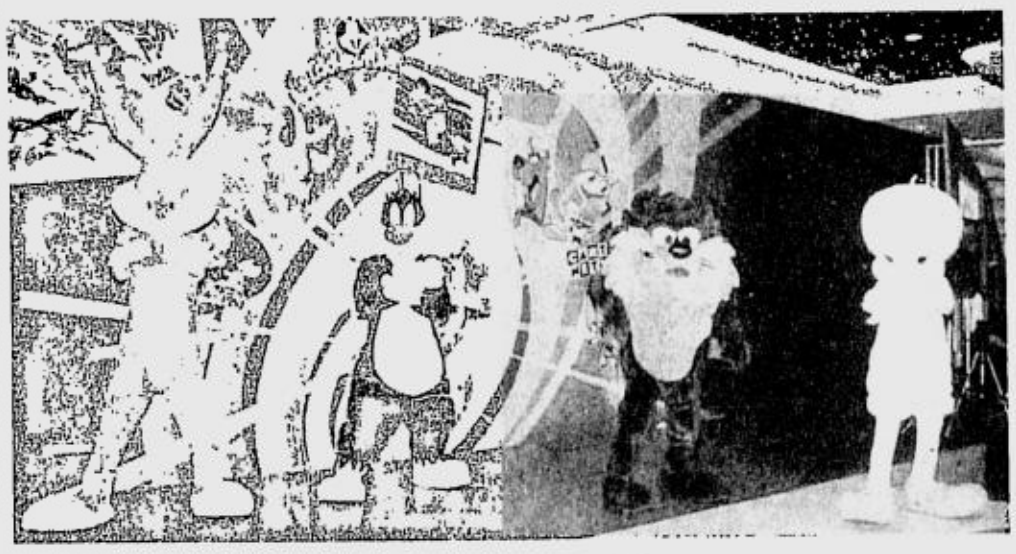
Warner Bros products were not the only crowd drawers. Department of Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas took time off from politics to open the frolicsome show. Looney Tunes characters Bugs Bunny, Tweety, Sylvester, and Taz, Cartoon Network residents Dexter and Deedee and the Powerpuff Girls, surprised the guests with a groovy dance number. A kiddie fashion show displayed the most adorable apparel only from Warner Bros. PBA Comm. sioner Noli Eala and Alaska bigwigs Wilfred Uytengsu and Wacky Trillo, together with rising cager John Arigo gave their game faces a rest and sported wide smiles posing with the adorable mascots.

Incidentally, the event also formalized a joint licensing program that will introduce limited edition Tweety and Hello Kitty consumer products to the market. The special edition products will be available beginning October this year.

Warner Bros consumer products takes all these properties beyond the theater and television and into our everyday lives in the form things tangible, adding the extra to the ordinary.

In the Philippines, Warner Bros consumer products is represented by Bates Licensing & Entertainment Inc., BLE works with various local manufacturers, distributors, promotional partners, publishers and retailers to provide a full range of products for its properties, likewise, and build a home for these products in a variety of retail settings. Presently, Warner Bros consumer products properties are represented in major department stores, toy stores, supermarkets, bookstores and specialty shops. Among BLE's key partners are Wireless Services Asia for Globe, Smart, Jollibee, RFM, Zesto, Wyeth, Goldilocks, Red Ribbon, Colgate-Palmolive, SM Department Stores, National Bookstore, Rustan's, Kidz Station, Bankee Trading, Richwell Trading, Dakki Direct Sales, Sterling Paper, Star Paper, Merit and Atlas Publishing.

Be a Warner Bros licensee now. Call BLE at 892-8864 or 810-5869, fax 817-6856 or e-mail inquiries@bates.com.ph.

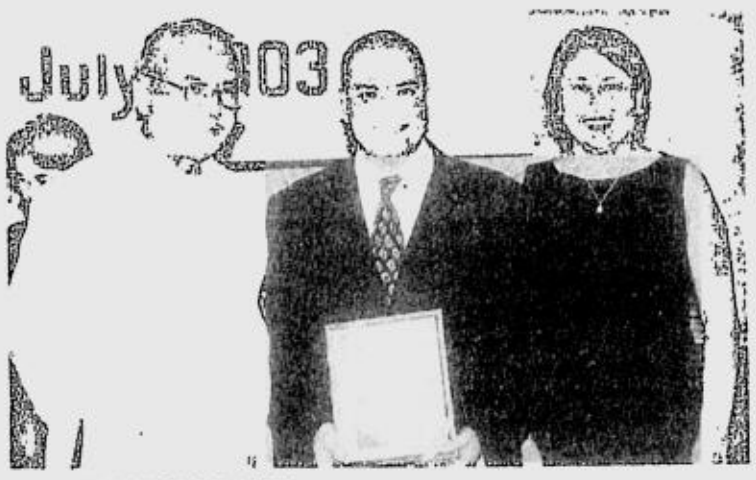


GMA NETWORK WELCOMES FRENCH AMBASSADOR

Madam Renee Veyret, Ambassador of France to the Philippines, is welcomed by GMA Network Inc chairman of the board/president and CEO Felipe L. Gozon on her arrival at the GMA Network Center in Quezon City July 11. Accompanied by French Embassy Press Attache to the Philippines Bénedicte Meyssan, the Ambassador's visit included a short tour of the GMA Network Complex and a meeting with the network's top officials, including GMA Network executive vice president and COO Gilberto R. Duavit Jr, corporate communications officer-in-charge Butch Raquel, corporate communications-internal head Carmencita Arce and vice president for news and public affairs Marissa Flores.

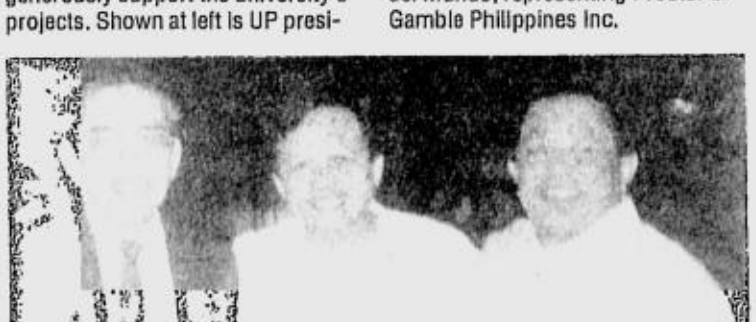
GARMENTS AND TEXTILE FORUM

A forum on the state of the garments and textile industry was held recently at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. The forum discussed the impact of the current state of the industry in relation to labor, business opportunities and the different steps that the government is taking to give the garments and textile industry a shot in the arm. Also discussed in the forum is the positive impact that Memorandum Circular 20, directing all national and local government agencies, government-owned and controlled corporations, government financial institutions and government instrumentalities, including schools and police units, to use locally produced materials for their uniforms. Shown, from right, are Chuck Lazaro of TMAP, Digna Rosales of UMAP, Democrito Mendoza of TUCP, former Senator Ernesto Herrera of Job Corps, Arsenio Tangco of Fopti, Olivia Ang of Unimoda and Antonio Abad of PITC.



UP DONOR'S NIGHT

The University of the Philippines recently honored donors who have continued with their commitment to generously support the university's projects. Shown at left is UP president Francisco Nemenzo and UP College of Business Administration Dean Erlinda Echanis with Francisco del Mundo, representing Procter & Gamble Philippines Inc.



PJA VP BATS FOR MORE FUNDS

Philippine Judges Association VP Judge Romeo F. Barza of Branch 61, Makati RTC (left), meets Rep. Rafael P. Nantes of the 1st District of Quezon Province and Rep. Oscar Gozos of the 4th District of Batangas recently to discuss possible law scholarship programs for poor but deserving students. A product of the UP College of Law, Barza believes that the PJA will be a strong symbol of judicial reforms to upgrade the dispensation of justice at the RTC level. Barza is running for the PJA presidency.

ProductFiles

Rare wine for discriminating gentlemen

WE ALL know what separates the men from the boys, but do we really know what puts the rare breed of men in a league truly apart from the ordinary? In the end, what really matters are the intangible traits that cannot be defined by sheer monetary value alone, such as class, character and taste.

Tempered by wisdom and the passing of the years, these attributes reveal themselves through the way they look at the world, and how they ascribe value to the things that matter most.

Up close and personal, you can see their real colors shine during those off-guard moments when they're at leisure-basking in the fruits of their well-earned labors and spending quality time with the people who matter most.

Dapper, suave and genteel, these men of character are as impeccable with their zest for the good life, and celebrate their treasured moments in style. Good food, good music and stimulating conversation are best enjoyed while savoring the rich bouquet of the finest wine. These essential traits are the very same qualities that epitomize the essence of Don Julio wine. Made of the finest La Mancha grape varieties and imported from Spain, this red wine variant exhibits light tanning and less acidic-making it a suitable blend for first-time wine drinkers.

BITS Clips

HealthToday on kids' health

RAISING happy and healthy children-this is the ultimate goal of any parent. It's a tough and, sometimes, thankless job. But as any daddy or mommy can attest, the rewards are great. This month, HealthToday pays tribute to parents with an issue filled with facts and tips on how to raise physically and emotionally fit kids. It's a dangerous world out there, especially for a child. What can a parent do? Read "Immune boosters for your child" and find out. The price of childhood obesity is heavy. Learn how to help your child fight fat. "The restless child" arms you with knowledge and understanding. First-time parents? Take a guided tour on how to take care of your newborn child. Plinky Recto finds the perfect workout in Pilates. HealthToday is available in all bookstores and newsstands. For subscription, call 886-0333 local 112.

Free consultations

PRETTYLOOKS Hi Tech Beauty Center for Men and Women, one of the leading frontrunners in the field of cosmetic surgery, is holding free consultations and discounts on its products and services for the public this October. The consultations is part of its information dissemination campaign this month to give a clearer view on the advantages and benefits of its services. which include non-surgical facelift, breast augmentation, butt lift, noselift, face and body whitening, liposuction and cosmetic surgery, among others. The free consultations and discounts are available at its main center at Unit 224-225, Building 2, Central Park 1, General Tinio corner Binay Streets, Bangkal, Makati City (889-4830, 889-4831) and at its branch at Unit 1539 Mega Plaza Condominium, 1907 ADB Avenue corner Garnet Street, Ortigas Center, Pasig (687-7507, 687-5098).

Participants to film fest

CINE Central, Calcutta, the largest film society in India engaged in the task of promoting film appreciation, is calling for participants to the Calcutta International Film Festival to be held in Calcutta, India from Nov. 10 to 17. The film society has been holding the festival since 1986. The Forum is non-competitive and will include feature films completed after Jan. 1, 2001. Interested parties should submit their film entries to Cine Central, Calcutta on or before Oct. 15. To get a copy of the application form, call Elvert Banares or Sunnie Completo of the Cinema Values and Reorientation Program (CVRP) office, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, 633 Gen. Luna Street, Intramuros, Manila, at 527-2192/2110, or at the Public Affairs and Information division at 527-5529.

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PASIG
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East Service Rd. nr. Posadas Village 791 sqm
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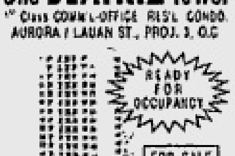

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Armed Forces of the Philippines invites all interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid in the 2-Stage bid process for the **Upgrade of Two (2) Patrol Killer Medium (PKM)/Wildcat Class Gunboats (in-country)** of the Philippine Navy with an approved budget of **Two Hundred and Eighty-eight Million Pesos (Php 288,000,000.00)** chargeable against the AFP Modernization Program CY 2002 funds.

Only bids from accredited Marina shipbuilding/ship repair companies shall be entertained.

The 1st stage bid documents shall be available for issuance starting **October 6, 2003 until October 16, 2003** during office hours at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development, J9, GHQ, AFP, 3rd Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. The bid documents shall be issued upon payment of **Twenty-eight Thousand and Eight Hundred Pesos (Php 28,800.00)**, which is not refundable. The form of payment shall be in cash or cashier's check in favor of the AFP Modernization Act Trust Fund. Pre-registration documents may only be submitted starting on the day of the first publication until the day of the pre-bid conference.

A Special Power of Attorney, issued by the prospective bidder, authorizing its representative to purchase the 1st stage bid documents in its behalf, shall be required before issuance of the said documents.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on **October 16, 2003 at 09:00 AM** (local time) at the **Silid Panday Pira**, 1st Floor, Bulwagang Mabini, Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City. Bidders may submit their query/ies, if any, in writing to the BAC Secretariat not later than three (3) working days prior to the Pre-Bid Conference.

The Bidder shall be allowed to inspect the two (2) PKM gunboats at the Naval Shipyard, Fort San Felipe, Naval Base Cavite, Cavite City upon purchase of the bid documents until the deadline of submission of the 1st stage envelopes.

The deadline for submission of 1st stage envelopes is on **October 30, 2003 at 9:00 AM** (local time) to be followed by the Opening of Bids at **9:15 AM** at the Silid Panday Pira. Only those bidders found eligible shall be allowed to participate in the 2nd stage bidding activities.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines reserves the right to reject any or all the bids based on the grounds for disqualification specified in RA 9184 without assuming any obligation whatsoever for expenses or losses that may be incurred by the bidder(s) in the preparation of the bid.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE CHAIRMAN, BAC:

(Originally Signed)
JORGE G NECESITO
Rear Admiral AFP
Vice- Chairman, BAC

(PDI – October 7 & 13, 2003)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late HIROO MURAKAMI who died on May 7, 2003 in Paranaque City has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs on September 5, 2003 under Doc. No. 469; Page No. 94; Book No. 81; Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty. Jose L. Sta. Ana of Marikina City.
PDI-Oct. 6,13 & 20, 2003

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MONICO G. ALBANO was extra-judicially settled by the heirs as per Doc. #796, Page #160, Book #6, Series of 2003 before Notary Public Atty Jesus C. Apelado Jr of QC (PDI-Oct 13, 20 & 27, 2003)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that the following stock cert representing one (1) share of The Country Club, Inc. and issued in the name of Mr. Michael L. Recto has been declared lost: Stock Certificate No. 136 for one (1) share.

PERSONAL

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PERSONAL

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

NOVENA PRAYER
O Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord Jesus and our Mother, penetrated with the most likely confidence, in thy all-powerful and never failing intercession, manifested so often through the Miraculous Medal, with thy loving trustful children. Implore thee to obtain for us, the grace and favors we ask during the Novena, if they be beneficial to our immortal souls, and the souls for whom we pray. Thou knowest, O Mary, how our souls have been the sanctuaries of thy Son who hits inequity. Obtain for us then a deep hatred of sin and that purity of heart which will attach us to God alone so that our every thought, word and deed may tend to His greater glory. Obtain also for us a spirit of prayer and self-denial that we may recover by penance what we lost by sin and at length attain to that blessed abode where thou art the Queen of angels and of men. Amen

B10

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2003

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OBITUARIES

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(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Sent off with love...

EPITACIO DIMEN TITONG, JR.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on October 11, 2003 at the age of 61.

His beloved wife **ANDING**, children **DAYANG**, **CHIQUITA**, **MARIA** and **TAYONG**, together with his grandson **JAIME**, his brothers and sisters, relatives and friends; celebrate his new life.

His remains lie in state at the Capilla del Señor, Sanctuario de San Antonio, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 16, 2003 at the Eternal Gardens Memorial Park, Baesa, Kalookan City after a funeral Mass at Sanctuario de San Antonio.

Lord of all!!! Below-above, Fill our hearts with truth and love;
As dissolves our earthly tie, Takes us to Thy Lodge on High...

In Memory of Our Beloved

JUDGE JUAN RIEGO DE DIOS NARVAEZ (RET.)

Peacefully joined our Lord
on October 10, 2003 at the age of 91.

His loving wife **Gloria**; children **Gody & Angie, Noel & Marly, Rustic & Lourdes**; grandchildren **Geoffrey, Gideon, Azriel, Tobie, Danielle Hann, Jericho & Paolo**; pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence, Col. Infante Street, Maragondon, Cavite.

Interment will be on Tuesday, October 14, 2003 at the Aglipayan Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Philippine Independent Church, Maragondon, Cavite.

RUBEN U. VALENCIA

Former LTO Chief Northern Licensing Center

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 11, 2003 at the age of 78.

His body lies in Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, October 16, 2003 at the Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora Avenue, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

JULIAN TIU LEE

who passed away on October 6, 2003

wish to express our deepest gratitude to all of you who offered prayers; kept vigil with us and in many immeasurable ways condoled with us in these most difficult times.

JOSE MA. LUIS A. LAGDAMEO

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on October 12, 2003 at the age of 18.

His loving parents **Jose Mari** and **Rosalia Antonio**; sister **Cristina**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Cremation will be on Wednesday, October 15, 2003 at the Manila Memorial Park Crematorium, Sucat, Parañaque City.

Mirope C. Reyes

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on October 10, 2003 at the age of 71.

Her bereaved family **Johnny & Minnie, Edita, Imelda & Fred, Pedro & Des, Chit & Jose (†), Digno & Letty**, their children and grandchildren, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, October 15, 2003 at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City after the celebration of the 8:00 am Holy Mass.

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT MESSAGE OF THANKS
DEATH ANNIVERSARY REQUIEMS FREE OBIT

CLASSIFIEDS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Department of Budget and Management
Malacañang, Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bids and Awards Committee of the Department of Budget and Management (BAC-DBM) hereby invites G-EPS registered companies / contractors to a public bidding for provision of janitorial and security services for FY 2004.

The approved budgets for the contracts are P6,286,280.40 for Janitorial Services and P7,896,000.00 for Security Services.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Pre-Bid Conference to clarify and address the bidders' questions on the Bid Documents that will be held on **November 4, 2003, Tuesday, at 9:00 A.M. for Janitorial Services and 1:00 P.M. for Security Services**, both at the AS Conference Room, G/F Mabini Hall, Malacañang, Manila

Bid documents may be obtained starting **October 13, 2003 from 8:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of THREE HUNDRED PESOS (Php300.00) per set of bidding documents at the following address:

Ms. Fredeswinda P. Perez
BAC Secretariat
G/F GSD, Administrative Service
Department of Budget and Management
Mabini Hall, Malacañang, Manila
Tel. Nos. 735-4902 & 735-4921

Bidders shall submit the bid documents i.e. eligibility requirements and technical and financial proposals in three (3) separate sealed envelopes, to be dropped in the bid box located at the Office of the Head of the BAC Secretariat at the above-mentioned address **For janitorial services, deadline for submission of bids shall be on November 19, 2003, Wednesday, not later than 9:00 A.M. For Security Services, submission of bids will be on November 19, 2003, not later than 1:00 P.M. In both cases, opening of bids will take place immediately thereafter. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat.

The DBM reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract; and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **LUIS C. LIWANAG II**
Undersecretary and
Chairperson, DBM-BAC

(PDI-Oct. 13 & 20, 2003)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following persons whose names, last known addresses, and pictures appear below are presently charged with "Qualified Theft" before the Regional Trial Court of Makati City, Branch 145, Crim Case No. 03-1057:

Caroline Magcase Taningco
281 San Agustin,
Alaminos, Laguna
or 7256 J. Victor Street,
Plo Del Pilar, Makati City

May Joy Isagonde Llamelo
234-C Galino St. 11th Ave.,
Quezon City, or B-4 Damata,
Letre, Tonsuya, Malabon City or
Esperanza Jamindan, Capiz

Jovelyn Luenco Sembrano
3298 V. Mapa St., Sta. Mesa Manila or
Clarin, Bohol

For further information please call the office of
UY CLERIGO & DE GUZMAN LAW OFFICES at tel. nos. 243-6170 or 73

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Registration Fee: P2,500.00 per day, inclusive of meals and conference kit

Day 1, December 02, 2003: Focus on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs)

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Day 2, December 03, 2003: Focus on Electronic Payment and Solutions

• Electronic Payment as a major challenge in e-Business • Internet Security: Making online transactions secured • Online Payment Solution • Wireless Financial Transactions (mobile banking & remittance) • Wireless Payment: what's the update?

Day 3, December 04, 2003: Focus on Convergent Technologies

• Convergent Technologies: Making it Affordable for SMEs doing e-Business • Making ERP solutions accessible to SMEs • Making Wi-Fi technology accessible to SMEs • Mobility and Wireless Solutions for SMEs • Transforming the Internet Café into shared access and business solutions center • Making inventory management more efficient through automation • Sales automation using wireless and mobile technologies

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Republic of the Philippines
CITY COUNCIL
Manila

ORDINANCE NO. ____

AN ORDINANCE EXPROPRIATING THAT PARCEL OF LAND OWNED BY MS. ROSITA GAN-AW, COVERED BY TRANSFER CERTIFICATE OF TITLE NO. 182327, SITUATED AT CALLE DIZON, TONDO, MANILA, WITH AN AREA OF FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY FIVE SQUARE METERS AND FIFTY SQUARE DECIMETERS (565.50 SQ.M.), MORE OR LESS, FOR RESALE AT COST AND ON INSTALLMENT BASIS TO THE QUALIFIED, ACTUAL BONA FIDE TENANTS OR OCCUPANTS THEREAT, UNDER THE LAND-FOR-THE-LANDLESS PROGRAM OF THE CITY OF MANILA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it ordained by the City Council of Manila, THAT:

SECTION 1. The expropriation of that parcel of land owned by Ms. Rosita Gan-Aw, covered by Transfer Certificate of Title No. 182327, situated at Calle Dizon, Tondo, Manila, with an area of Five Hundred Sixty Five Square Meters and Fifty Square Decimeters (565.50 Sq.M.), more or less, for resale at cost and on installment basis to qualified, actual bona fide tenands or occupants thereat, under the Land-for-the-Landless Program of the City of Manila, is hereby authorized.

SEC. 2. The amount of **ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (Php 1,500,000.00)**, or so much thereof, as may be necessary is hereby appropriated out of the General Fund or any other available funds existing in the City Treasury of Manila: *PROVIDED, HOWEVER*, That the amount equivalent to Fifteen Percent (15%) of the zonal valuation of the property shall be set aside from the FIFTY MILLION PESOS (Php 50,000,000.00) lump sum appropriation provided in the Executive Budget for the acquisition of landed estates under the Land-for-the-Landless Program of the City of Manila: *PROVIDED FURTHER*, That any appropriation to this effect shall be subject to the availability of funds as certified to by the City Treasurer.

SEC. 3. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Ordinance shall take effect upon its approval.

Enacted by the City Council of Manila at its regular session today,

Approved by His Honor, the Mayor, on

APPROVED:

JOSE L. ATIENZA, JR.
Mayor
City of Manila

DANILO B. LACUNA
Vice-Mayor and Presiding Officer
City Council, Manila

ATTESTED:

EMMANUEL R. SISON
Secretary to the Mayor

RODOLFO F. LAPID
Secretary to the City Council

PRINCIPAL AUTHORS: HON. PACIFICO D. LAXA, Hon. Marlon M. Lacson, Majority Floor Leader, Hon. Ruben F. Buenaventura, Hon. Danilo T. Varona and Hon. Edward M. Tan.

CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that the City Council ordered the publication of the above proposed Ordinance during its regular session held on October 2, 2003, pursuant to the provisions of Section 17, Article III of R.A. 409, as amended, otherwise known as the Revised Charter of the City of Manila.

(Sgd.) **RODOLFO F. LAPID**
City Government Dept. Head III
(Secretary to the City Council)

(PDI–Oct. 13, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON
Municipality of Kadingilan
-oo0oo-

OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this invitation is issued.
2. The Local Government Unit of **Kadingilan, Bukidnon**, as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, invites prospective bidders to apply for eligibility and if eligible, to bid for the **Upgrading of Maisa-Kawilihan-Bacbacon Farm - to - Market Road**. The expected contract duration is 365 calendar days.
3. Eligibility statement forms, bidding documents and plans may be secured by interested bidders starting **October 06, 2003** from the BAC Secretariat Office, Second Floor, Municipal Building upon payment of non-refundable fee of **Php 2,000.00 per set.**
4. Application for Eligibility and submission of Letter of Intent addressed to The Chairman of the Bids and Awards Committee must be submitted in sealed envelopes on or before **October 20, 2003 at 3:00 p.m.** at the BAC Secretariat Office, Second Floor, Municipal building c/o **MPDC Engr. Rizal L. Capili**. A pre-bid conference will be held on **October 27, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. at the Municipal Hall Lobby.**
5. The deadline for the submission and opening of bids is on **November 11, 2003 not later than 2:00 p.m.** Late bids will not be accepted. The Bid shall be accompanied by a bid security in the form of **cash/manager's check or surety bond callable on demand** issued by Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and to be posted in favor of the LGU. The amount of the bid security shall be based on the approved budget for the contract and shall be valid for a period of not less than 120 days.
6. The approved budget for the contract is **PESOS: TEN MILLION FIVE HUNDRED NINETY THREE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE AND 00/100 (Php 10,593,935).** Only contractors classified by the CIAP as Medium "A" or above are the subject of this invitation.
7. Minimum equipment required to be owned and leased by the contractor:

Two (2) units Bulldozer - 1 owned/1 leased	Two (2) units Road Grader - 1 owned/1 leased
One (1) unit Payloader - owned	One (1) unit Water Truck - owned
Six (6) units Dump trucks - 4 owned/ 2 leased	Two (2) units Road Roller - 1 owned/1 leased

8. The LGU reserves the right to reject any or all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is evidence of collusion, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullified competition or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures. The LGU also reserves the right to waive any required formality in the bids received, provided that such waiver does not refer to a major deviation in a bid or any requirement pertaining to the substance of a bid.
9. The provisions of the IRR of E.O 40 apply to this invitation.

(Sgd.) **JULIAN C. CABALLERO, SR.**
Municipal Mayor
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI--Oct. 6 & 13, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Roxas Boulevard Corner Pablo Ocampo Sr. Street
Manila 1004
ONE-STOP SHOP INTER-AGENCY TAX CREDIT AND DUTY DRAWBACK CENTER

DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 19-03
13 July 2003

To safeguard the interest of the government as well as the integrity of the tax credit system against the use of fake, tampered, or recycled Tax Credit Certificate (TCCs), the One-Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center (Center) is hereby directed to conduct a special revalidation of all outstanding TCCs issued prior to October 1, 2003 as defined under this Order.

Section 1. Objective. The implementation of the special revalidation is intended to determine the outstanding amount of TCCs, as defined in this Order, that are still floating in the market and to prevent the use of expired, stolen, fake, tampered or recycled TCC that may still exist in the market.

Section 2. Coverage and Definition of Terms. (A) The special revalidation shall cover the following TCCs:

1. Jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) under Section 112 of the National Internal Revenue Code, *Refunds or Tax Credits of Input Tax* or TCCs transferred as provided by Revenue Regulations No. 5-2000 using BIR Form Nos. 2310 (Revised: February 2001) and 2320 (Revised: April 1988).
2. Jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) under Section 10p(c) of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines using BOC Form No. 179 (Revised 1981)
3. Jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) under Section 106(b of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines using BOC Form No. 179 (Revised 1979)

(B) The following terms are defined as follows:

a) Outstanding Tax Credit Certificate(s) - this consists of all TCCs with creditable/outstanding balances issued under the aforementioned laws, whether originally isssued to the original grantee or transferred from the original grantee.

b) Special revalidation - refers to the process of cancellation of outstanding TCCs and the replacement with new form as defined in this order.

c) Unutilized TCC forms - this consists of blank TCC forms which are still in the custody of the Center and unreleased to any claimant.

Section 3. General Procedures on the Special Revalidation

1. The Center, in coordination with the BIR and the BOC, shall cause the production of new TCC forms with additional security features to prevent the unauthorized product on and use of fake TCCs. In addition to the information indicated in the existing forms, the new forms shall clearly indicate the legal basis of the issuance, the approving authorities of the BIR and BOC Commissioners and the authority of the Center signatory to release the same to the grantees' official representatives.

   The new forms shall be ready for issuance not later than September 30, 2003.

2. The Center, BIR and the BOC shall issue their respective Office Order, Revenue Memorandum Order and Customs Memorandum Order that will provide for the mechanics for the surrender of all outstanding TCCs forms which are in their custody to the Center for revalidation in compliance with the provision of this guideline.

   On the other hand, the Center shall surrender all unutilized TCC forms in its custody for the appropriate action of the BIR or the BOC.

3. The Center, BOC and the BIR shall require the holders of outstanding TCCs to surrender the same to the Center for special revalidation starting October 1, 2003 up to March 31, 2004.

   Outstanding TCCs not submitted within the revalidation period shall still be allowed for revalidation subject to approval of the Center's Executive Committee.

4. The Center shall accept applications for special revalidation in accordance with the following procedure:

   a. The Center shall check the authenticity of the TCCs to ascertain that there has been no tampering of the forms, that the TCC is validly issued per Center records, and that they are still subsisting and therefore qualified for the issuance of a new certificate corresponding to the unused balance of each TCC.

   b. The creditable balance of the TCCs subject of revalidation shall be based on certifications from the BIR, BOC, and the records of the Center. In case of differences, reconciliation shall be undertaken by the Center.

   c. The Center shall prepare the revalidated TCC using the new forms equivalent to the validated remaining balance. These revalidated TCCs shall be forwarded for the signature by the authorized signatory at the BIR or the BOC.

   The revalidated TCC shall indicate the date of original issuance, date of revalidation and the TCC maturity date. The maturity date of the TCC shall be the same as that of the original issuance and shall undergo regular revalidation as provided by law.

   d. The revalidated TCCs approved by the BIR/BOC Commissioner shall then be signed by the Center's official signatory to authorize the release of the same to the grantee's official representative according to the prescribed procedures.

Section 4. Transitory Provision. The BIR and the BOC are directed to institute measures to prevent the use of fake, tampered, or recycled TCCs during the revalidation period.

Section 5. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect upon completion of its publication in at least 2 major newspapers of general circulation for a frequency of once a week for three consecutive weeks. This Order shall be given as wide publicity as possible.

(Sgd.) **JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO**
Secretary

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE SPECIAL REVALIDATION PROGRAM

Pursuant to Department Order No. 19-03 dated July 18, 2003, a Special Revalidation of all outstanding Tax Credit Certificates ("TCCs"), as defined in this guideline approved via Executive Committee Resolution No. 233-27-2003 dated September 24, 2003, issued prior to October 1, 2003 by the Department of Finance- One-Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center ("DOF-Center") shall be conducted.

The Special Revalidation entails the surrender of TCCs to the DOF-Center and subsequent replacement of the same with new forms thereby preventing the use of expired, stolen, fake, tampered or recycled TCC that may still exist in the market.

I. Coverage and Definition of Terms. The special revalidation shall cover the following TCCs:

1. Jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) under Section 106(c) of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines using BOC Form No. 179 (Revised 1981)
2. Jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Customs (BOC) under Section 106(b) of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines using BOC Form No. 179 (Revised 1979)
3. Jointly issued by the Center and the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) under Section 112 of the National Internal Revenue Code: Refunds or Tax Credit of Input Tax, as well as such TCCs transferred as provided by Revenue Regulations No. 5-2000 using BIR Form Nos. 2310 (Revised: February 2001) and 2320 (Revised April 1988).

The Special Revalidation shall involve the replacement of the above-mentioned TCC forms with new TCC forms with additional security features as follows, reflecting remaining balance of the subject TCC:

1. For Item No. (1) and (2) with OSS-Center Form No. 0302
2. For Item No. (3), with OSS-Center Form No. 0303

It is emphasized that the Special Revalidation shall not affect the TCC maturity date and shall undergo regular revalidation as provided by law.

The Special Revalidation does not cover the following:

1. TCCs issued by the DOF-Center under the provisions of E.O. 226 and other related laws.
2. TCCs solely issued by the Bureau of Internal Revenue National Office and Regional District Offices and
3. TCCs solely issued by the Bureau of Customs

I. Requirements

The TCC holders, either the original grantee or the transferee (in case of transferred TCC), shall directly file their applications for the Special Revalidation to the DOF-Center with the following documents:

1. Sworn letter-request signed by the TCC holder's authorized company officer addressed to:
   The Executive Director
   One-Stop Shop Inter-Agency Tax Credit and Duty Drawback Center
   3/F Department of Finance Building
   Roxas Boulevard Manila 1004
2. Original TCC(s) subject of revalidation
3. Affidavit under oath by the TCC holder as the TCC(s)'s remaining balance, previous usages and ports/1DM-issuing office, if applicable.

The format for items (1) and (3) can be secured from the DOF-Center office or downloaded from the DOF-Center website:http:// taxcredit.dof.gov.ph.

III. Period of Revalidation

The official period for the Special Revalidation shall start on October 1, 2003 and ends on March 31, 2004. Applications filed beyond this period shall only be allowed for revalidation subject to the approval of the Center's Executive Committee.

IV. Criteria for Revalidation

The special revalidation shall cover the authentication of the TCC itself, validation of its issuance, and verification of the revalidation request to establish the following:

1. That the TCC has been duly issued by the Center:
2. That there have been no tampering on the certificate;
3. That the party requesting for the revalidation of the certificate is its rightful owner;
4. That the TCC is not yet expired; and
5. That the TCC is not yet fully utilized.

When these criteria are met, the TCC subject of request shall qualify for the issuance of the new form reflecting the remaining balance of the TCC.

V. Transitory Provision

The DOF-Center shall stop issuing Tax Debit Memos to TCCs in old forms starting October 1, 2003. All applicants for Tax Debit Memos ("TDM") are required to comply with the requirements of this Guideline prior to the issuance of TDM.

VI Other Matters

- In case of lost TCC(s), the claimant shall submit a notice of loss to the Center within the revalidation period and shall be required to comply with the procedures and requirements provided under the guidelines for the replacement of lost TCCs.

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO Q. HIANSEN**
Executive Director, DOF-Center

Noted:

Undersecretary **MA. GRACIA PULICO TAN**
Chairperson, DOF-Center Executive Committee

Health Awareness and Alternative Lifestyle focus at the 4th HOS 2003

HEALTH awareness and promoting healthy alternative lifestyle will be the major focus of the 4th Health and Organic Show 2003 on November 28-30 at the SM Megamall.

With the theme "Your Health, Your Wealth", the show is not just an exposition of various health products and services but also a learning experience for many health buffs, professionals, and the general public.

Sponsors of this year's Health and Organic Show include Philippine Daily Inquirer, Manila Times, Health and Lifestyle Magazine, Health News, 702 DZAS, Softrigger Interactive, and Web Philippines.

For booth reservation and details, call Fiera de Manila, Inc at tel. 896-0637, 899-6893, 896-0639, email: fiera@info.com.ph, fieram2@info.com.ph; visit website: www.fml.com.ph.

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Cotabato
Region XII
OFFICE OF THE CITY CIVIL REGISTRAR

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. Act No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **Lilia A. Villamil** has filed with this office a petition for change of first name from **Fe** to **LILIA** in the birth certificate of **Fe Aparicio** who was born on **June 3, 1953** at **Lapacan Norte, Inabanga, Bohol** and whose parents are **Severino Aparicio** and **Francisca Logroño.**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this office not later than **Oct. 21, 2003.**

(Sgd.) **Susan Gulani-Dumama**
City Civil Registrar

(PDI–Oct 13 2003)

HEADQUARTERS
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES MEDICAL CENTER
V Luna Road, Quezon City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The AFP Medical Center invites prospective bidders to Pre-Qualify and to Bid for the supply and delivery of foodstuff and related items.

Pre-Bid Conference and Public Bidding, will be held on 170900H Oct 2003 and 060900H Nov - 070900H Nov 2003, respectively, at OCG Conference Room this Medical Center

(Sgd.) **ROGELIO I SABLAY**
COLONEL MAC(GSC)
Chairman, BNAC

(PDI - Oct 6 & 13, 2003)

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CANADIAN IMMIGRATION ASSISTANCE SERVICES
BOX 5060 Station Don Mills
Toronto Ontario M3C 3X4 CANADA
(Lines open 24 hours 7 days)

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HENRY BUTCHER

E-mail: pr_info_tech@inquirer.com.ph

INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

Nokia blames fake batteries for explosions

NOKIA said that the use of non-original batteries was most likely to blame in two reported incidents of its handsets exploding in the Netherlands and Vietnam.

Last week, a Dutch teenager and a Vietnamese woman suffered burns after their Nokia phones exploded. Nokia said the company had registered 20 such cases worldwide.

Nokia admitted having had similar incidents like this before, but the firm said batteries in question had always been non-original.

The company said this was most likely the case in the two latest incidents as well. *AFP*

Sun offers alternative to Windows desktop

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

SUN Microsystems Inc. has come up with a desktop system that is being groomed as a product aimed at undercutting staunch rival Microsoft Corp.

Dubbed the Sun Java Desktop system, the company claims that the desktop solution will give cost-conscious organizations up to 75 percent savings versus the nearest alternative, which is Microsoft's Windows and Windows-based desktop software products. Sun has always been a vocal critic of Microsoft's desktop dominance and has been an advocate of less expensive network computing.

The bundled solution comes with the Sun Java Desktop system (codenamed Mad Hatter), a Java-based smart card, StarOffice 7 productivity software, Mozilla browser and other applications such as e-mail and instant messaging. The system will also be powered by the company's Java 2 standard edition system.

The Sun Java Desktop system will run on x86 (computers running on Intel and compatible microprocessors) or Sparc-based systems (computers which use Sun's own processor called Sparc). Organizations will have the choice of installing Sun's Solaris or the Linux operating system.

This software and hardware bundle will cost organizations $127 per desktop, Sun said.

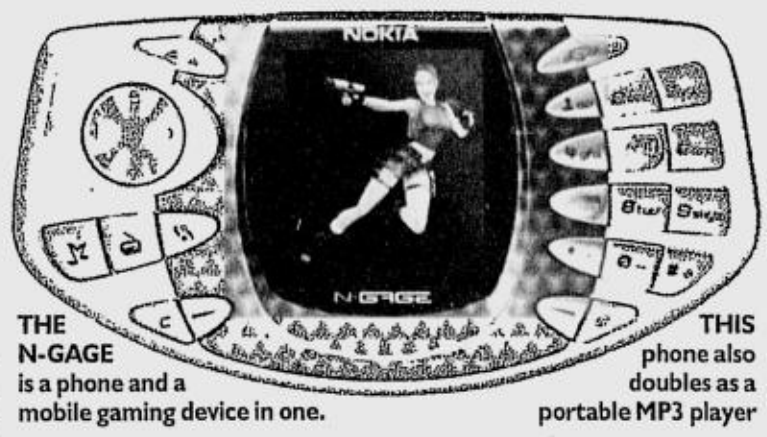
"The onslaught of viruses and warnings make it painfully obvious that the proprietary desktop installed on 98 percent of the world's desktop PCs is a ticking time bomb," said Jonathan Schwartz, executive vice president of Software at Sun.

Although not directly hitting Microsoft, Sun believes that this alternative desktop system offers businesses the choice to save on millions in licensing fees for the operating system and applications, while getting the assurance of having a secured system.

Citing data from information technology research firm IDC, Sun said that close to 50 percent of companies surveyed worldwide are seriously considering alternative desktop systems based on cost and the need for more secure systems.

IDC noted that the installed base of paid Linux client operating environments, for instance, will increase by 43.9 percent from 2002 to 2007.

Meanwhile, Sun claims that independent software vendors such as Computer Associates, Adobe and RealNetworks have also expressed support for the new desktop alternative.



THE N-GAGE is a phone and a mobile gaming device in one. THIS phone also doubles as a portable MP3 player

Doubts loom over RP availability of N-Gage

By Erwin Lemuel G. Oliva

MOBILE phone giant Nokia unveiled its much-awaited wireless gaming device—the N-Gage—on Oct. 7, just in time for the Christmas shopping spree.

However, Philippine gaming enthusiasts might end up disappointed because Nokia has yet to decide whether or not to sell the N-Gage in the local market.

Industry sources told Infotech that Nokia is not rushing to launch N-Gage in the Philippines. However, even Nokia Philippines could not shed light on the issue.

In a telephone interview, Luanne Erni, Nokia Mobile Philippines product marketing, declined to comment on the issue.

"I cannot confirm right now. I'm not in a position to comment about it at this point," the Nokia executive told Infotech.

The Philippines' two largest mobile operators were also clueless about Nokia Mobile Philippines' plans.

An official from Smart Communications public affairs said that the operator is oblivious to Nokia's intentions with the N-Gage in the Philippines.

Jones Campos, assistant vice president for public relations of Globe, also said that Globe Telecom has not yet been informed of any marketing plans concerning the N-Gage.

However, in the Philippines some phone models are not introduced if operators show little interest in the product. In most cases, the operators subsidize part of the cost of the phone, which means operators indirectly have a part in the decision-making process when it comes to which models to introduce locally.

The N-Gage was launched in at least 60 countries worldwide. Retail price was pegged at $300.

The device is touted as an industry first since N-Gage enables gamers to share and compete over wireless arenas. Players can use either Bluetooth wireless technology or General Packet Radio Service mobile network to compete against each other.

As an added bonus, N-Gage owners will have access to the N-Gage Arena. This will serve as a virtual home to unit owners, where they can share experiences and engage other players in various games. N-Gage Arena service is being offered free of charge to consumers for a trial period, but data traffic fees will be charged depending on operator tariffs, according to Nokia.

Meanwhile, Nokia also announced the availability of several game titles. New titles such as NCAA Footbal 2004, Red Faction and Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell are among the games that will be available to N-Gage. Game cartridges are sold for $30 each, similarly priced with the games of the N-Gage's main competitor—the market-leading GameBoy of Nintendo.

Initial reviews of the device, however, reveal a clumsy method of changing game cartridges. To change a game, one has to open the back of the phone, take out the battery and replace the game cartridge. Moreover, when making a call, the N-Gage is held sideways for an unwieldy way of communicating. The N-Gage also doubles as an MP3 player.

RP in World Cyber Games

A NINE-MAN Philippine team is competing in this year's World Cyber Games (WCG) 2003, the world's biggest gaming contest being held in Seoul, South Korea till Oct. 17.

More than 600 cyberathletes from 55 countries have converged in the South Korean capital since Oct. 11 to vie for a total of $350,000 in prizes.

The Philippine team bested more than 12,000 aspirants from all over the country who joined the 2nd Samsung Philippine Cyber Games, the national preliminary event to WCG 2003.

Recognized in the gaming community worldwide as the Olympics of computer gaming, WCG is the world's first and biggest game culture festival where gamers around the world come together to compete and bring honor to their countries through e-sports.

The event has been held annually since 2000.

Reuse Dreamweaver commands

By Jerry Liao

POWERTIPS

REPEAT your previous Macromedia Dreamweaver command by using the History feature.

1) Open Dreamweaver.

2) Creating your webpage.

3) Go to Window/History to display list of past actions.

4) Select the action you want to repeat, then click Replay.

5) You can even save a series of actions by selecting the task and clicking the floppy icon.

6) The floppy icon is located at the bottom right corner of the palette. Enter a name for the command and click OK.

7) This name will appear on the Commons menu for reusing in the future.

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BUSINESS Monday

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Are you 100%?
IMMUVIT

Asian bankers talk about regional reforms

SECRETARY of Finance Jose Isidro N. Camacho, keynote speaker.

By Elena R. Torrijos

BANKS should act swiftly to reduce the level of their non-performing assets given the increasing competitive pressures brought about by globalization, Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said in a recent speech before regional bankers attending the 20th general membership meeting of the Asian Bankers Association at the RCBC Plaza.

"Effective loan restructuring requires creditors and borrowers to agree on more drastic solutions to allow an asset or business to become feasible, including relinquishing equity control and change of management for borrowers and write-downs, subsidized interest rates and debt conversion for creditors," Camacho said.

He noted that while wholesale solutions to substantially reduce the region's non-performing banking portfolios through asset management companies were being put forth, much more needed to be done to encourage more domestic banks to bite the bullet, and absorb the losses.

He underscored, among other things, the importance of regional efforts to harmonize bankruptcy laws and practices and strengthen regulatory institutions.

"Time occasionally heals the wounds of a bad loan but time is not on our side, especially in a globally competitive environment. Most regional economies are also enjoying low interest rate environments but this will not always be the case," the finance chief pointed out.

The seminar focused on the theme "Challenges and Competition in a Globalized Market." The discussions provided delegates with valuable perspectives on the challenges that banks must address in the face of continuing globalization of markets and the increased competition it brings for the banking industry in the region. Experts were invited to share their views on how Asian banks should address these challenges and what they needed to do to sharpen their edge, particularly in terms of sounder risk management, corporate governance and continuing financial reforms.

AMBASSADOR Alfonso T. Yuchengco with favorite granddaughter Michelle Dee-Santos.

CESAR E.A. Virata, corporate vice chairman and chief executive officer of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., and Peter Cee, president of China Bank.

YVONNE Yuchengco, president of Malayan Insurance; Sally Navarro, Helen Y. Dee, president of the House of Investments, and PDI chair Marixi Rufino-Prieto.

RIZALINO Navarro, chair of RCBC, and John Mark Winders, managing director of ANZ Banking Group in Singapore.

FRANCISCO Magsajo Jr., president of RCBC Savings, with Ambassador Dinh Tich of Vietnam

YASHIN Khidiron, deputy chair of the board of the National Bank of Uzbekistan, and Otabek Anvarov, advisor to the chair, National Bank of Uzbekistan

CHNG Lim Sok Hui, head and managing director, DBS Bank Ltd., and RCBC's Ruy Moreno

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A growing export market for recyclables

SOON, our junk shops and *basureros* will be participating more actively in a growing export market for recyclable materials—from used paper to metal parts.

That's one of the positive developments that we might expect from a multi-year Asia-Pacific project on recycling that the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP), through the MAP Environment Committee, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (Iges) of Japan and the Thailand Environment Institute, are currently working on, with Iges as the lead organization.

This project is part of the Research on Innovative and Strategic Policy Options (Rispo), a major component of the Asia-Pacific Environmental Innovation Strategies (Apeis) program. The program aims to develop strategic policy options for the sustainable development of the Asia-Pacific region.

The second year of the project will start soon. In the first year that just ended, our MAP Project reviewed the status of waste management and recycling in the Philippines and documented three case studies.

Main challenges

Waste, from ordinary garbage to hazardous waste, continues to be one of our main environmental challenges.

In Metro Manila, the government estimates that only up to about 75 percent of the waste is collected, of which only 13 percent is recycled.

About 20 percent of waste is hazardous and comes mostly from commercial and industrial

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Corazon PB. Claudio

sources. Much of the waste is dumped in controlled or open dumpsites.

The recycling of waste at a commercial scale in our country has been focused on paper, plastic, metal, fiber and glass. Estimates of the local paper industry's use of waste paper ranges from 50 percent to 90 percent. The leading paper mill, Tipco, uses 100 percent waste paper to manufacture high-grade paper.

The Philippines is now involved in the export of recyclable materials. Our trade statistics show that from 2001 to the first quarter of 2003, metal waste (as the recyclables are recorded) topped our exports of recyclables with total value of $21.3M while paper and wood waste topped our imports with $8.9M, followed by metal wastes with $1.9M.

Our trade on recyclables has been mostly with Asia-Pacific countries, US and a few European countries, particularly Germany and Netherlands.

Various groups are now taking initiatives to solve our waste problems with recycling.

The first case that we have documented is Beyond Recycling with Asset Management and Demanufacturing by HMR Envirocycle. HMR, which has a recycling facility for electronic waste in the Sta. Rosa Industrial Park.

The second case is the Solid Waste Management Program of the Ayala Foundation and other organizations in Makati City.

The third case is the Industrial Waste Exchange Program of the Philippine Business for the Environment (PBE).

Policy options

From these cases we can extract some lessons and develop some ideas for strategic policy options. These include the following:

A recycling market needs an effective information, education, and communication program that includes capacity building. It must be designed to suit the needs, as well as the regulatory and cultural environments, of the target market participants. It also needs a supporting network, such as the PBE's Industrial Waste Exchange Network that is now established in local regional markets in the Philippines.

A waste exchange, whether for the local or export market, needs a database listing companies that want or offer recyclable materials. Such database could benefit greatly from the adoption of common specifications for recyclables.

At present, countries use different terms and coding systems for their tradable recyclables so it is not easy to trace trade flows and make comparative studies. The national statistical system for tradable recyclables of countries covered by the market must be analyzed and compared with goal of standardizing them.

Both incentives and disincentives are necessary to promote recycling. Incentives to attract and maintain users of recyclables could include price reduction, tax

A GROWING/ B2-3

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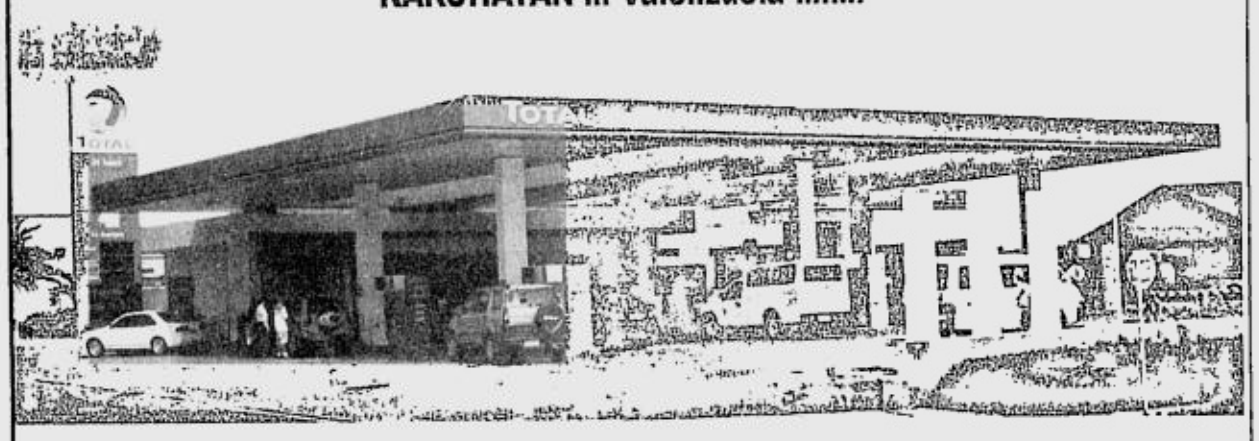

Interested applicants may get in touch with Ms. Jenni Supan at 8490714 or

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Tess Salazar (0918-904-7839 / 849-0725)

Managers' views on fighting corruption

By Dennis M. Arroyo
Contributor

THIS CONCLUDES the report on managers' views on corruption. It would focus on what could be done to fight it.

The data were taken from a special Social Weather Stations (SWS) survey on Filipino managers sponsored by The Asia Foundation, which ran from Oct. 25, 2002 to Feb. 25, 2003. SWS interviewed 500 top and middle level enterprise managers in Metro Manila. They came from 214 large companies and 286 small and medium firms.

The survey asked, what private organizations deserve praise for their fight against corruption? The group most often cited was the Makati Business Club.

Makati Business Club	15%
Print and broadcast media	7
Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption	7
Phil. Chamber of Commerce and Industry	6
NAMFREL	3
Bayan Muna	3
Rotary Club	3
Church/ Religious sectors	3
Bayan	2
Crusade Against Violence	2
NGOs (unspecified)	2
KAISA (Fil-Chinese NGO)	2
Gabriela	2
Phil. Center for Investigative Journalism	2
KMU	2
CBCP	2
Integrated Bar of the Phils.	1
None are praiseworthy	17
Don't Know	18

The SWS survey asked the managers to rate the sincerity of government agencies fighting corruption. Were they Sincere or Insincere? The following were the resulting Net Sincerity scores, or the Sincere ratings minus the Insincere.

Supreme Court	+65 percentage points
SEC	+65
DOH	+61
Dept of Budget and Management	+51
Dept of Education	+43
Barangay	+40
Office of the President	+39
Sandiganbayan	+33
Ombudsman	+21
Com. on Audit	+20
City/municipal govt	+20
Dept of Justice	+16
PCGG	+1
Pres. Anti-Graft Com	+1
Trial Courts	-4
DILG	-8
Senate	-10
LTO	-23
House	-23
DENR	-30
PNP	-36
BIR	-52
DPWH	-59
Bureau ofCustoms	-65

What penalties should be imposed on the corrupt in the public sector? This distribution arose:

Imprisonment	52%
Follow due process, implement the law	27
Removal from office	22
Death penalty	11
Expose them via media	9
Ban/blacklist them	8
Restitution of assets	7
Extra-legal action	4
Financial penalties, forfeit benefits	4
Revoke licenses and privileges	4
Others	2

In turn, these were the percentages for recommended punishments for the corrupt in the PRIVATE sector:

Removal from office	31%
Imprisonment	29
Ban/ blacklist them	22
Follow due process, implement the law	19
Expose them via media	7
Revoke licenses and privileges	7
Financial penalties, forfeit benefits	5
Death penalty	3
Restitution of assets	3
Extra-legal action	2
Don't know	3
None	1

The SWS poll asked the managers about their suggested rewards for those fighting corruption in the public sector:

Material rewards	60%
Financial incentives	44
Jobs, business opportunities	16
Non-material rewards	57
Honors	28
Good publicity	14
Protection	6
Involve them more	6
Other non-financial rewards	3
No rewards	12

The following data arose on suggested rewards for those fighting corruption in the PRIVATE sector:

Material rewards	57%
Financial incentives	37
Jobs, business opportunities	20
Non-material rewards	58
Honors	36
Good publicity	9
Other non-financial rewards	5
Support their anti-corruption campaigns	5
Protection	3
No rewards	10

The SWS survey asked the managers how much would their firms' net income rise if corruption was minimized to the level found in Singapore. The majority said their bottom line would indeed rise.

Negative change	2%
Zero change	31
Positive change	60
Up to 5 percent rise	9
6-10 percent rise	12
11-20 percent rise	14
21-30 percent rise	11
31-50 percent rise	6
51 percent or more	8

The firms' net incomes were seen to rise by a median of 20 percent due to the slide in corruption.

Anti-corruption programs would have to be supported. How much could companies contribute to a fund that would cut corruption by half in 10 years? What fraction of their net income would they be willing to give?

Not willing at all	17%
Below 1 percent	5
1+ percent	16
2+ percent	9
3 to 4 percent	2
5 to 9 percent	19
10 percent	14
More than 10 percent	8
Don't know	9
Median	2

Hence, the private sector would be willing to donate 2 percent of their net income to an anti-corruption fund.

Comments to darroyo@philonline.com.

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A growing . . . CEOs: Economy in holding pattern, but bullish

From page B2-2

credits, public recognition and access to soft loans.

Public investments are needed in areas that might not be attractive to investors but are critically needed for environmental protection, e.g., setting up of toxic and hazardous waste treatment and recycling facilities. Disincentives could include the refusal of municipal garbage collectors to accept waste products that are not classified properly or that could contain hazardous components.

Defining roles

Recycling involves various stakeholders-from waste generators to scavengers and big recyclers. A policy should define the roles and responsibilities of each party in recycling. The support of top management and consumers is crucial to the success of recycling. Partnerships are also necessary.

These should include partnerships with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) for take-back programs. For example, while we still don't have a facility for processing used small batteries, perhaps we can collect them and ask their manufacturers to take them back.

The policies relevant to recycling in each country need to be evaluated and gaps identified. A green procurement program of the government, which gives priority to recycled products, can make significant contributions to recycling and overall environmental protection.

New rules and regulations, as well as systems, procedures and standards, may be needed to ensure that an export market is supportive of sustainable development. These include standards for recycled products, and guidelines for transporting recyclable materials.

A database on laws, rules and regulations of the country participants in the export market is needed. Effective enforcement of such laws, including monitoring of their implementation, is crucial to the success of a recycling program.

Self-regulation could lessen the work of government in monitoring. For example, recyclers must be encouraged to implement sound environmental management measures on their own.

Collection and drop-off points for recyclable materials are needed, especially for electronic waste, used oil and other recyclable materials and waste that have hazardous components.

Environmentally sound and affordable technologies for handling waste must be made accessible to developing countries. Transfer of technology for recycling is necessary, especially for electronic and other new technological products. But, even more important is technology transformation, i.e., transforming a technology or knowledge for adaptation in a developing country by its technical experts and skilled labor.

Even non-hazardous waste, such as used paper, may have hazardous components, such as ink. Proper handling of these hazardous components is an issue that an importer-participant in an export market must address.

The country participants in the export market can undertake cooperative R&D programs, e.g., how to make a waste product useful enough to make it attractive in trading.

In the second year of the project we hope to identify four more case study subjects. If your organization has a noteworthy project that has a current or potential contribution to the improvement or expansion of the export market for recyclables, please contact us through the MAP Secretariat.

(The author chairs the MAP Environment Committee. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph.)

THE POSITIVE macroeconomic numbers posted over the first quarter of the year indicate a bullish Philippine economy even as CEOs maintain a "wait-and-see" attitude pending the results of the 2004 elections.

This was the key finding during the recently concluded round-table discussion attended by company CEOs and mounted by C.L. Manabat & Co., the local affiliate of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu, one of the leading accounting firms in the world.

In the open forum, the top honchos of several multinational firms pointed out that investments, infusions of new capital, expansion and corporate financing and borrowing are being put on hold as businessmen remain in the sidelines closely monitoring the unfolding of the 2004 presidential race.

Participants included Procter & Gamble Philippines president Johnip Cua, Sykes Asia vice president and managing director Michael Henderson, Fujitsu Philippines chair Shigeo Tsubotani, Newtech Pulp's president Alberto P. Fenix Jr., E. L. Enterprise president and CEO Eli Levin, Delbros Inc. president and CEO Jose Eduardo C. Delgado, Guevent International Development Corp. president Domingo S. Guevarra, Gerry Sta. Ana, Board of Investment Governor and Philippine Hoteliers Director of Finance Dan Antonio.

This wait and see attitude was encapsulated by economist and business leader Romeo L. Bernardo, who delivered an economic presentation positing that the Philippine economy is in a "holding pattern."

Bernardo stressed that the government's fiscal and monetary policies have significantly contributed to positive first quarter numbers, specifically: subdued inflation, declining unemployment, declining domestic interest rates, rising tax collections and an improved budget position.

The CEOs said the issues keeping the Philippine economy in the holding pattern are the peace and order situation in Mindanao and the Cordilleras, the outcome of the clean-up drive against corruption and the possible shift to a parliamentary form of government.

Nonetheless, the business leaders predicted that there will generally be a continuity in basic policies affecting business regardless of who emerges on top of the 2004 elections.

Other highlights, opinions and views voiced out in the discussion are the following:

- The 2004 elections does not have influence on today's business decisions.
- The Information Technology sector is a potential growth area for the country. Business Process Outsourcing is one of the most promising growth areas. Philippine call centers, for example, have an inherent edge over similar suppliers in India because of English proficiency.
- There is a need to harness the entrepreneurial and management skills of our students. Participants called for review of the local educational structure which they perceive to be producing graduates who are looking for jobs instead of entrepreneurs who will go into business and create jobs.
- Most CEOs believe that the Philippine economy is in a bullish rather than a bearish state as they believe that their company's performance is still ahead of the government's performance. This is evident in the increase in economic activities going on in different sectors.
- The local demand for products may not have increased significantly but it is noteworthy to mention that exports have been growing as experienced by their companies. The optimism of the business community rests largely on first quarter figures that show increased economic activity such as the slight rise in local demand and the more evident increase in exports as experienced by the CEO participants in their respective companies.

Is it right . . .

From page B2-4

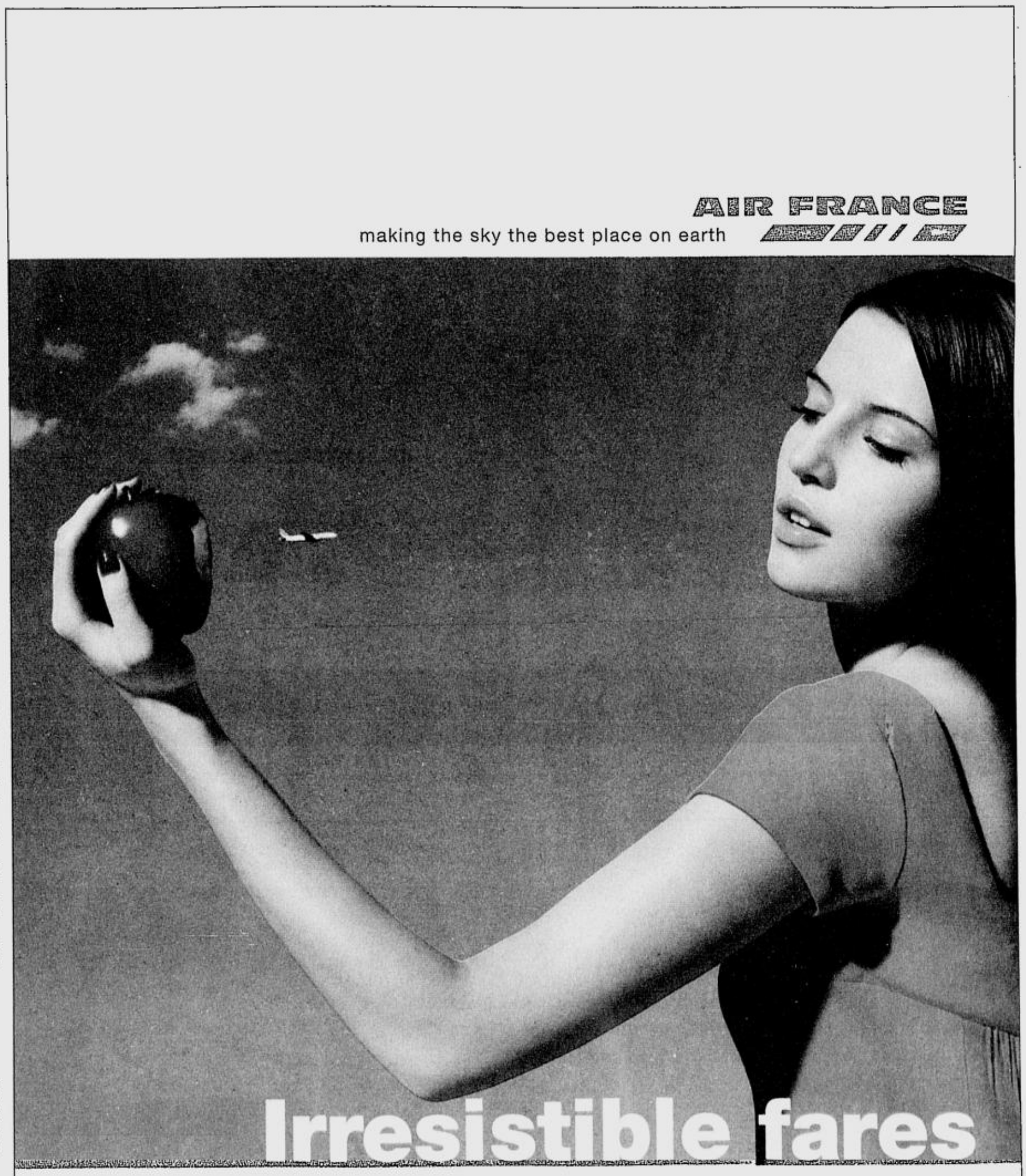
ness is offensive, so know your limits. Before eating, wait for someone to say *Guten Appetit* or offer a toast before beginning to eat. Familiarize yourself with German Menu Terminology, here are some that may be useful:

Bockwurst-veal sausage
Brat-fried, roasted
Brathächen-fried chicken
Bratkartoffeln-hash browns, roasted potatoes
Bratwurst-fried sausage
grillen (v.)-to grill, barbecue
gegrillt-grilled, barbecued
Gulasch-veal stew with spices
Hähnchen-chicken
Weiner Schnitzel-breaded veal cutlets

Useful trivia. Germans show their appreciation for a presentation at the end of a business meeting by rapping their knuckles against the tabletop. Say "Prost!" when toasting with beer and "Zum wohl!" when toasting with wine). Respect personal space, do not stand too close when conversing and avoid touching (such as a pat on the back to get someone's attention).

Appearance. Business dress in Germany is very conservative. Businessmen wear dark suits; solid, conservative ties and white shirts. Women also dress conservatively, in dark suits and white blouses. Chewing gum while talkDo not hesitate to ask your German colleagues for advice, they will welcome it and will be more than helpful. Asking for advice on how to conduct yourself based on their customs shows that you are taking the initiative and are respecting their way of doing things. You will find that they will be more than willing to guide you.

E-mail your business etiquette queries to etiquetteconsultants@hotmail.com names of senders will not be published.



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Is it right to bring my wife to dinner at the boss' house?

GOODNESS GRACES

Lia S. Bernardo

Q. The president of our company invited all the senior managers to his home for dinner in honor of a visiting vice president from our main office in the US. My wife insisted on attending and I had no choice but to take her with me. When the wife of our president saw that my wife was with me, she was not at all accommodating. The opposite happened; she became rattled and spent most of her time in the kitchen. She even ended up not joining the dinner. Did I do something wrong? I saw nothing wrong with bringing my wife since the dinner was in a house anyway. Shouldn't my wife have been treated like a welcome guest?

A. You were actually very wrong in bringing your wife if she was not invited in the first place. Whether it is at a home or at a dinner you should never bring along an uninvited guest. Nor should you invite guests on your own. If your boss and his wife had wanted your wife present, they would have invited her. Bear in mind that this is applicable not only to business functions but also in social occasions. Be considerate of your host always. This is a very important thing to remember especially if it is a sit-down dinner wherein every seat is already assigned. The reason your president's wife was so rattled was because she probably had to prepare more food and/or devise a way in which she could fit your wife in the dinner table. If she was supposed to join the dinner in the first place and ended up not joining, she most probably had to give up her seat in order to accommodate the uninvited guest. As such, whether the dinner was held at a home or a restaurant, you should never bring another person to a sit down dinner. If it is a cocktail reception or an after dinner gathering then you may bring a companion provided that you ask your host if it is okay to do so. But, in a sit down dinner you should not even ask to bring a companion as the places have already been pre-assigned and determined.

Q. We are having a business conference in Germany this October. I work in a large pharmaceutical company. Could you give me some background on German business etiquette to help prepare for my trip? I'm a senior marketing manager and I would like to make a good impression as I regularly communicate with my German colleagues by e-mail but this will be the first time I will meet them face-to-face.

A. First of all, since you are going to be with employees from a sister company, you will find that your corporate culture and their corporate culture will be very similar with only minor differences as a result of local culture. As such the adjustment will not be that drastic. Secondly, I have gathered some tips for you regarding business etiquette in Germany that may be useful to you.

Be punctual. Germans are extremely punctual people. Even if you will be 5 minutes late, call and inform them that you will be late. Better yet, always plan to arrive 5-10 minutes ahead of the scheduled time.

Use titles. It is very important to refer to your German colleague with his or her title (respectively, Herr and Frau for Mr. and Mrs.), plus the last name (do not use the first name until you are told to do so). If someone is introduced to you with an additional title (e.g., Dr.), use it. This is a formal culture until people get to know each other. Always use the full title of the person.

Shake hands. Acknowledge each and every person with a firm handshake and maintain eye contact when doing so. After a handshake, present your business card. Make sure you bring enough with you.

Gift giving should not be extravagant. A small souvenir item from the Philippines is sufficient. Do not give alcoholic beverages as the Germans make some of the best in the world.

Guten appetit. Every time you drink a glass, whether beer or wine, it will generally be refilled. The more you drink, the more you will be offered to drink, so know when to stop. German white Rhine wines and beers are world-renowned. Since your conference has been scheduled to coincide with the internationally famous Oktoberfest, pace your drinking. Germans consume large quantities of beer but public drunken-

IS IT RIGHT/ B2-3

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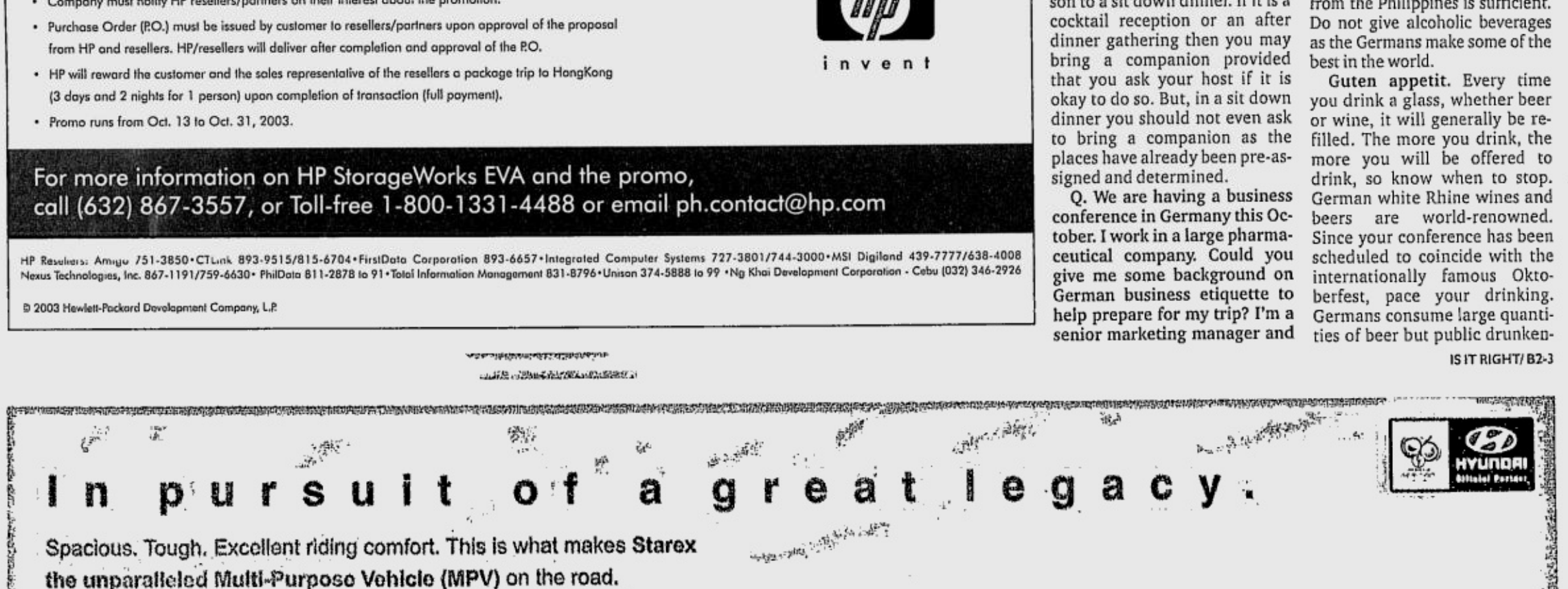

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Aiko: Herbert not dating anyone except me

QC vice mayor 'still goes home to common-law wife'

By Nini Valera

BEFORE she allowed Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista to court her, actress and Quezon City Councilor Aiko Melendez made sure he was not involved with another woman.

"He has kids with other women, but he's not seeing anyone," Aiko told INQUIRER Entertainment last Thursday during a break in the shooting of her movie "Filipinas." "That, I know. He's not with anyone. He's never been married to anyone. He's not dating anyone except me, I hope."

She added: "We don't sleep together. Our relationship is not yet that deep. We're at that stage of getting to know each other. I'm still trying to get to know Herbert not as the politician but as the person."

But sources close to the vice mayor said Herbert still spends the night in the house of the mother of his two children. The woman, the sources said, is upset that Herbert is now after Aiko, whom the woman accused of breaking up her relationship with the vice mayor.

The sources said that every time Herbert visits the woman and their children, Aiko would send him text messages reminding him that she was waiting for him.

But Aiko, 27, insisted that as far as

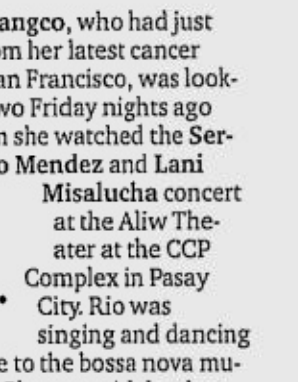
AIKO/ C2

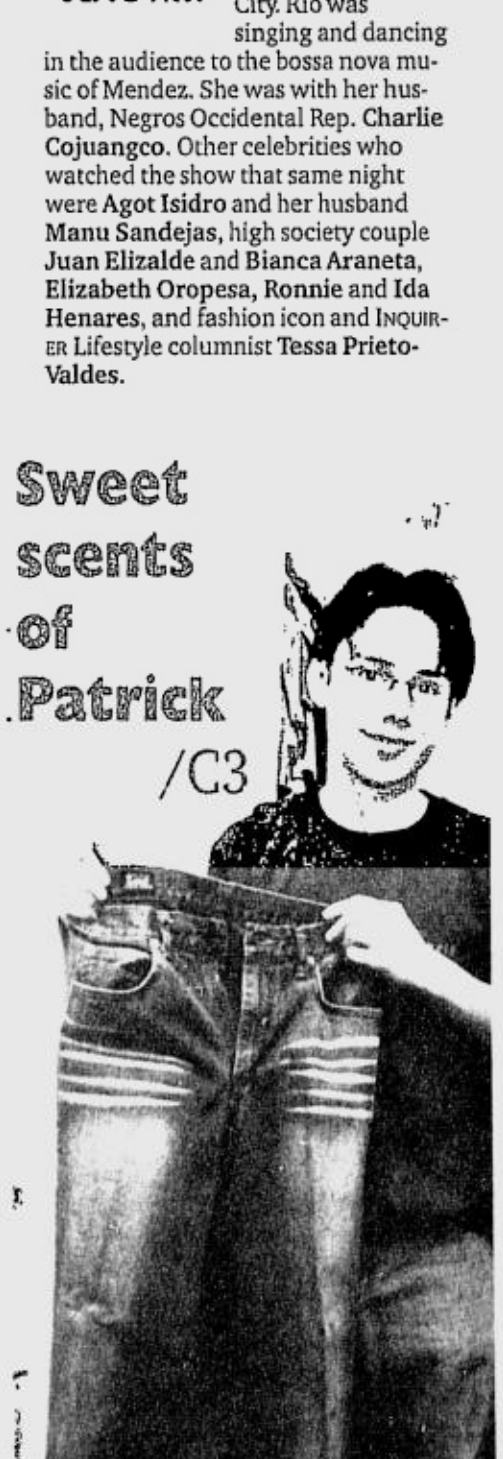
MELENDEZ insists that Bautista is "not with anyone" and "has never been married," although she also claims they "haven't been sleeping together."

DID YOU KNOW...

Rio Diaz-Cojuangco, who had just come home from her latest cancer treatment in San Francisco, was looking very well two Friday nights ago when she watched the **Sergio Mendez** and **Lani Misalucha** concert at the Aliw Theater at the CCP Complex in Pasay City. Rio was singing and dancing in the audience to the bossa nova music of Mendez. She was with her husband, Negros Occidental Rep. **Charlie Cojuangco**. Other celebrities who watched the show that same night were **Agot Isidro** and her husband **Manu Sandejas**, high society couple **Juan Elizalde** and **Bianca Araneta**, **Elizabeth Oropesa**, **Ronnie** and **Ida Henares**, and fashion icon and INQUIRER Lifestyle columnist **Tessa Prieto-Valdes**.

Sweet scents of Patrick /C3





"TRICKYA" lets it all hang out. ROGER CARPIO

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Albert Martinez makes his mov(i)e

RIGHT after our recent piece on "self-producing" filmmakers ("Make Your Mov(i)e") came out, we got the good news that actor **Albert Martinez** was putting his thespic career on hold for some months so he could concentrate on directing his first feature film, "Full House."

This is heartening news because, if more filmmakers follow suit, local movie output won't be limited to the established studios, products, and the local film scene can be opened up to other formats, approaches and inputs that can improve the currently grim movie scene in a big way.

Albert is trying to make his film for "just" P5 million, which is much more economical than the budget of the average Filipino movie made these days. As we noted in our recent piece, other self-producing filmmakers are trying to get their movies made for even less (P2 million to P3 million).

The point is that prospective filmmakers these days no longer have to wait for big producers to decide to bankroll their first efforts. Filmmakers who get their relatives and friends to invest in their movies also have to make fewer compromises, so the finished films are generally fresher, more original and more vital productions.

"Full House" is described as the drama about life as seen by men. This in itself is already a departure from standard local film practice, which generally assigns "dramas about life" to female protagonists.

In Albert's film, men are shown playing cards, and telling stories that vivify the themes, concerns and problems that are important to them.

We hope that male viewers patronize this movie despite its not being an action film, and that women also see it, to learn how "the other half" thinks and feels.

And we trust that other new filmmakers consider financing their own movies with the help of their relatives and friends. This new option could be what the local movie industry needs to re-energize itself and get over its current slump.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

'Draw Your Hero' finals

FIFTEEN finalists from different schools around the country competed in the first "Draw Your Hero" finals held recently at the ACCM bldg. in Makati. The finalists were chosen from more than a thousand entries by a judging panel headed by the noted painter, **Mauro "Malang" Santos.**

The major winners: Category A (4 to 6 years old)—First prize, **Johanns Nibre** (Christian Values School, Bacoor, Cavite); Second, **Samantha Saprid** (same school); Third, **Pinky Marie Galinato** (Colegio de Sta. Monica de Angat, Bulacan).

Category B (7 to 9 years old)—First prize, **Jed Nathaniel Gonzalez** (Jesus Flock Academy, Marikina City); Second, **Kenneth Tua** (Lourdes School of Mandaluyong); Third, **James Christian de Castro** (same school).

Category C (10 to 12 years old)—First prize, **John Anthony Berbaño** (Christian Values School, Bacoor, Cavite); Second, **Kenneth Vincent Borja** (Lourdes School of Mandaluyong); Third, **Jeremy Chad Zabala** (same school).

The "Draw Your Hero" contest was the culminating activity of the first season of "Greatest Heroes and Legends of the Bible," a cartoon series featuring stories from the Old and New Testaments. The series is telecast on RPN 9 every Saturday at 9 a.m.

The "Draw Your Hero" tilt is now accepting entries for its second season. Call 759-6340, locals 113 or 117.

'A Gift of Love'

THE HUSBAND-AND-WIFE duo, **Tuck** and **Patti**, is showcased in the new Universal Records album, "A Gift of Love." Relying only on guitar and voice, Tuck and Patti have produced a remarkable number of jazz, R & B and crossover recordings.

This time around, they interpret all-time hits made popular by well-loved artists. The songs include "Close to You" (Carpenters), "Up on the Roof" (James Taylor), "Just the Way You Are" (Billy Joel), and "Can't Help Falling in Love" (Elvis Presley).

'Wildlife Diary'

STARTING Oct. 13, you can catch "Wildlife Diary" every Monday at 9:30 p.m. on the National Geographic Channel. The new reality show follows the lives of animals in the wild over a 12-month period as they struggle for food and territory.

And every Monday at 9 p.m. on NGC, "Animal Nightmares" examines what lies behind the paralyzing terror some people feel when they encounter a seemingly harmless animal.

'Focus Asia'

ON STAR World's "Focus Asia" (Sundays at 8 p.m.): Oct. 26, **Shakuntala Santhiran** goes into the gold mines of Araroy in the Philippines to investigate reports that children are working there.

Aiko: Herbert not dating anyone . . .

From page C1

she knows, Herbert's relationship with the unidentified woman had already ended.

"He's not with the girl anymore, but I cannot elaborate," Aiko said. "When he started courting me, I told him he would be making a fool of himself and not of me if he has not broken up with the woman."

Music 21 explained

Aiko admitted she's fond of Herbert. She described him as intelligent and "someone I can talk to about politics."

She claimed she misses her ex-husband, actor Jomari Yllana.

"I miss him on a different level," said Aiko. "I miss the happy times. Of course, I miss sleeping with him. It's different if I'm just sleeping with my son. I miss hugging a partner. If you have been with somebody, you'd miss him.

"Jomari was also my friend. I could talk to him about my problems at the end of the day. I don't have that now. That's what I miss."

She, however, denied that she was dating Jomari, who was reportedly seen with her in a videoke bar in Quezon City recently.

"That incident in Music 21 was blown out of proportion," she said. "He arrived in my house while I was out. Andre, our son, was already sleeping. He called me up asking where I was. I told him I was in Music 21 with my staff. I told him he could follow us there if he wanted to. That's about it."

Good job

Her failed marriage has driven her to work harder in the city council, she said.

"It was like, how can you be effective in the council if you couldn't even fix your own life? That may be true, but it still does not take away from me my desire to help other people. It just made me work doubly hard.

"Modesty aside, I think I can safely say I'm doing a good job in the council. My colleagues elected me as the majority floor leader so they must really think I can do something. I have already passed about 50 measures in my first term."

Her landmark ordinance is the one lowering the business tax in Quezon City to entice investments for the creation of a business district.

If she had her way, Aiko would be seeking a second term in the council. But political supporters have been urging her to take a bigger leap and run for congresswoman for the second district of Quezon City.

"I am not closing my options," she said. "I'm also preparing myself by reading. This November, I'm going to enroll in public administration so I will be prepared for whatever."

In the meantime, the would-be congresswoman is back to being an actress. After a four-year absence from the movies, Aiko was lured back by Viva Films to take part in its biggest movie this year, Joel Lamangan's "Filipinas," the story of a family set against the backdrop of current political events and economic turmoil in which the human spirit remains unconquered.

Missing movies

Aiko plays Vicky, one of three sisters in the Filipinas family, who must reverse the failure of the family business.

"It's a challenging role," said Aiko. "I'm the strongest of the three sisters, and I'm very scheming. I accepted the role because I was overwhelmed by the cast, which has some of the biggest names in the industry—*Ate* Maricel (Soriano), Dawn (Zulueta), Richard (Gomez). Then there's *Direk* Lamangan and the script. Among the scripts I've read recently, I found the script of 'Filipinas' really good."

She said she missed being in the movies so much that she looks forward to the filming of "Filipinas."

"But I made sure that I don't shoot on Tuesdays because that's when the city council has its session," she said.

She is in the sitcom "Klasmeyts" with Herbert.

"It's an icebreaker for me," she said. "I've always been known as a dramatic actress so doing comedy is something new. Besides, my life is already so tumultuous that I don't want to play heavy roles on TV."

DID YOU KNOW...

A good-looking young actor, who started out in action movies and is in a movie that is showing soon, is the apple of the eye of a high-profile male public official, according to people in show biz circles. The star has a love child with a woman who is not from show business.

Amazing little...

From page C8

very difficult to practice."

The Philippines is an elusive home-away-from-home fantasy for Ernie. "I was planning on going last year," he revealed. "It turned out to be not a good time to go there. I've been trying to set up a time. I think that when this movie comes out in the Philippines, shortly after that, I'll make my way over there. Not for any project but just for a vacation at first. I have aunts and uncles there. A couple of my dad's sisters are over there. My grandparents are from Cebu."

Ernie volunteered that "at least three of the guys who play the rebels and also fight The Rock are Filipinos."

Asked if he, like this writer, is dreaming of seeing a major Filipino character in a Hollywood movie, Ernie answered, "I know that there are great Filipino heroes in history. I definitely want to explore Filipino characters. It may not be in my next role but I would definitely would like to do that (a Filipino role). I know about heroes like Lapu-lapu, people that I would love to explore as time goes on."

Is it getting easier for minority actors to land roles in Hollywood? Ernie, a Scientologist, revealed a sound, pragmatic brain atop the muscular frame: "It's difficult because there's definitely not a lot of roles available for actors with ethnic background. My philosophy is, you know what the situation is. You can't sit around and complain about it. You've got to keep moving forward and create as best as you can and hopefully, those doors will begin to open up as time goes on."

His first movie was "The Last Dragon," with Berry Gordy, the legendary Motown producer. He worked with Arnold Schwarzenegger in "Red Sonja." He had a television series, "Side Kicks."

"I've had moments that had been pretty awesome," said the 31-year-old. "But I'm more excited about what is happening now."

Sacrifices

Pursuing a Hollywood dream meant moving from San Jose to a rough L.A. neighborhood when Ernie was an adolescent. Father and son, both trying to make it in films, had to live in a garage. They had to pretend they lived in the main house when a limo came to pick them up for special events.

"I have realized that had I not led the kind of life that I've lived, I wouldn't be here now. You can't be in two places at one time. You have to sacrifice certain things in order to get other things. At some point when I was in high school, oh, I wanted to go to dances and play sports and those things. But now at this period in my life, I look back and say, you know what, I would never trade any of the things that I got to do for other things.

"My father has over 30 martial arts schools now. He has the largest martial arts organization in America (West Coast World Association) with over 7,000 people."

Ernie himself is about to enjoy the second chapter of his Hollywood career. "Everybody, including the folks at Universal, is excited about this movie and what it is going to do for my career, so I'm very excited." But ever a realist, he added, "We'll just have to see where it goes from here."

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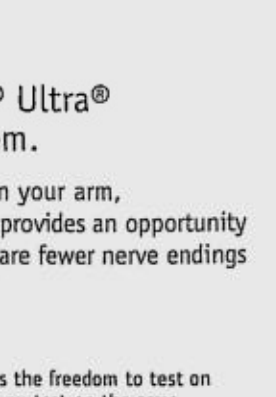

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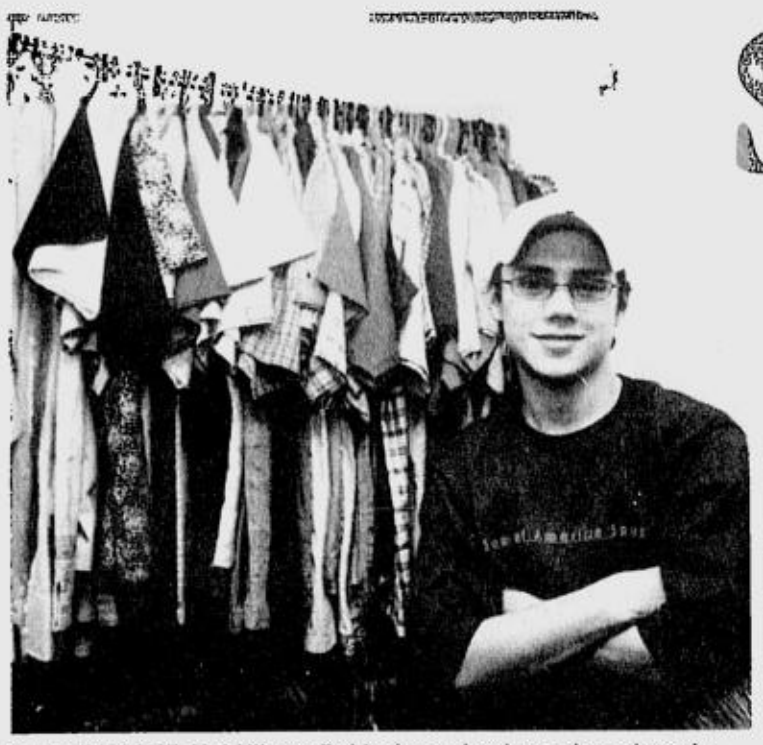

MAIDEN ISSUE. He'd like to fix his closets but has to leave it to the maids since he's always out.

PAIR ENOUGH. His shoe tastes run from light slip-ons and dressy Ferragamos.

GOING UP in the world of show biz, he fills a lot of media space.

PRIDE OF PLACE is occupied by his acting and achievement awards.

Scents of a star

By Marinel R. Cruz

YOUNG drama actor Patrick Garcia started collecting perfumes when he was just eight years old. Now 22, the fragrance "expert" can confidently recommend to other men, even those twice his age or older, what perfume to use to attract the opposite sex.

Out of the Closet

In his bedroom, Patrick has an entire cabinet, with five shelves, full of scents in bottles of different colors, shapes and sizes.

"I'm very particular about the scent," says the young star who is "Trickya" to family and close friends. "Buying a popular brand doesn't necessarily mean you're getting the best."

He says some perfumes, like the ones by Carolina Herrera, smell better on clothes when they are put on the day before the clothes are worn. "The night before, spray it on the shirt you'll be using the next day so you'll smell great."

The same perfume can smell different on two persons, depending on their diet, skin type and perspiration, says this authority. "Like if I wear Aspen when the weather's hot, I'm sure that after a while, *mag-aamoy panis*," he says. "But when it's cold, it's really sweet."

The very first perfume he bought for himself was Eternity For Men.

When a person has been using the same scent for a long time, the user tends to get "immune" to the smell.

"If the scent is still obvious to you 30 minutes after you've applied it, you've probably overdone it," he says. "You really have to take note of that. Instead of attracting people, you'll drive them away."

He says that because he is always busy taping episodes thrice a week for the series "Darating ang Umaga" on ABS-CBN, where he plays Eula Valdez's obedient son Nathaniel, he does not have time to put his closets in order.

"I try to fix my clothes whenever I can," says the 1998 Star Awards Best Actor for his performance in Jose Javier Reyes' "Batang PX." "Since I'm not home most of the time, the maids fix them for me."

Shirts. "I like white because it looks clean. I have a lot of white shirts, T-shirts, short- and long-sleeved shirts, but I like the short-sleeved ones better. I prefer wearing jeans with a T-shirt or with a polo shirt when I have no taping.

"Most of my shirts are in plastic cases. Since I shop only once in a while, I take really good care of them. I shop only when I go abroad or when I have a really big budget to spend. I go to malls only to eat or watch a movie. I don't really like walking around. I can't bear to see things that I want to buy but can't because I don't have much money."

Long sleeves. "I used to wear this checkered shirt from Burberry a lot. But people easily remember seeing it because of its unique design. It's still a favorite because it was given to me by my *Tito* Bobby (former finance secretary Roberto de Ocampo). I've had this for three years now."

Eyeglasses. "When I buy shades, I look for a pair that's not too heavy. I also like glasses with blue shades. I have four pairs that I wear alternately. When I wear this Oakley pair, the view is bright but it doesn't hurt my eyes."

Jeans. "I'm wearing my favorite pair right now. It's from Lee, which provides me with most of my tops and pants. I wear this a lot during tapings. It has a small stain just below the right back pocket. I like it because its fabric is light and soft. *Maganda ang bagsak*.

"When I buy jeans, I look for the straight-cut types, not the baggy ones. Baggy is loose and hangs like a bag. Straight is more decent-looking."

Jackets. "I used to collect jackets. *Kaya lang malas yata ako.* They always get stolen. My favorite jacket, a white Ralph Lauren with yellow-striped sleeves, was lost in a taping three years ago. I last saw it in my car.

"I still buy jackets, but not as often as before. *Suwerte na* if I get jackets as gifts. I don't go for the *ma-porma* ones anymore. I like plain-colored jackets. I have jackets in green, beige, white and yellow."

Suits. "This one is really special to me because I thought of the idea and had a designer make it for me. I saw the design in a 'Men in Black' movie about four or five years ago, then I drew it on paper. Will Smith wore it in only one shot. After I started using it, I saw people wearing the same style a few months later. I like its Chinese collar because I don't like wearing ties."

Barong. "I'm not really much of a *barong* type of guy. I don't know how to take care of it. I wore a *barong* in a wedding scene in a movie. I didn't even wear it that long. But I'd wear it again. If a suit is classy, a *barong* is classier and more Filipino."

Neckties. "I only have a few ties. Wearing them feels like there's something really tight hanging around your neck. I find wearing ties such a hassle. Tying them is another problem."

Slacks. "I prefer beige slacks. I like them in the same cut as my jeans. The length has to be just right, touching the top of the shoes just so, so that they won't crinkle."

Dress shoes. "My favorite pair is Ferragamo, but I hardly wear it. It's very light, comfortable and it's suede. I'm careful not to get it wet. I don't know how to take care of my shoes. My brother's very good at it, though. No matter how much I take care of my shoes when wearing them, when I get home, *parang ang pangit na*. I bought this pair in Hong Kong. I match it with slacks and a plain white shirt. Preppy look."

Slip-ons. "I got this pair from Shoe Salon. Though it's kind of heavy, it's *presko*. It goes with anything, jeans, shorts or slacks. I wear this more often than any of my other shoes. I also like my slip-on Nike Prestos. They are light and are made of a soft fabric."

Rubber shoes. "I keep this pair of gray Nikes in my car. It doesn't have shoelaces. Most of my pairs don't have shoelaces, which makes them easier to put on. Now, my shoes are sponsored by Converse."

Shorts. "I'm not much into shorts. Most of my favorite shorts are board shorts. I like this Quick Silver pair because it's white, with blue and yellow stripes, much like my favorite jacket. I wear it in beach scenes."

Nightwear. "I like to sleep in boxer shorts and plain white shirts. I have pyjamas only because I might use them during tapings."

Trophies. "I'm very proud of myself for winning these awards. I tend to be too hard on myself. (His trophies include those for the 1998 Movie Actor of the Year from the Star Awards for movies, Best Performer from the Young Critics Circle Awards, German Moreno Youth Achievers from the Famas, and Best Child Actor from the Famas also. He has also won awards in gymnastics, motocross and badminton competitions)."

SWEET SMELL of success fills the award-winning actor's life . PHOTOS BY ROGER CARPIO

BEDROOM BLUES. He's wearing his favorite jeans, but he prefers boxers and T-shirts when he goes to bed.

Inday, my friend and UP classmate

By Dolly Orendain Escobar
Contributor

SHE was not Inday Badiday to us. She was Lourdes Jimenez, our best friend and classmate in UP Elementary, and we called her "Ludy."

We were "survivors" because many of our Grade 6 classmates refused to go to Grade 7. To them, it was a waste of time. To us, it was a chance to enjoy and extend our childhood together in the UP Elementary, since we were too young for UP High School.

Ludy was my pal, my buddy, my swimming partner in the UP Varsity team, although she and I fell out of the team for various reasons, such as sinusitis. We had the greatest fun, especially in our Girl Scouts Patrol group when we would stay overnight but we would sleep on the benches of the multi-purpose room inside the UP Elementary School. They called it camping, but we did not have tents.

Ludy was so much fun. During our recess and lunch break, we would go to the gardens of our teachers, Mrs. Fernandez and Mrs. Cervantes, and pick flowers to wear in our hair. Our favorite was the *camia* because of its sweet scent, but we also picked *gumamela*. One of our class pictures showed me wearing a *gumamela* in my hair.

Among our classmates were Ricardo Malay, son of *Lolo* Armando, who would later be a writer; Merle de la Cruz Odi, who became a well-known anesthesiologist; the Vitug brothers, Fernando II and the III (we call them Nanding and Freddie, respectively); Emma Mandac Drilon, the president of Osias Vocational School in La Union and sister of the famous singer Evelyn Mandac; Marcial Sese, now an executive of the Metro Manila Development Authority; Johnny Gatmaitan, who became head of the Philippine National Bank of New York; Reynaldo Cifra, who just passed away in California, due to cancer, and who was a wonderful friend to all; Arthur Canlas, our "Mario Lanza" whom Ludy and I adored; Enrico Javier, the golfer; Estanislao Baltazar, who told us from abroad, through our UP High website, that Ludy had passed away; and many others who are in the US and the Philippines.

'Student Canteen'

Ludy and I continued on to UP High with our fellow graduates from Grade 7, until our third year when she fell in love with "Student Canteen" and Leila Benitez and Pepe Pimentel. She and another classmate, Lolita Pamatmat, would sneak out of our classroom to watch the noontime show. By then, our subjects were getting a bit difficult and we were having crushes.

Ludy was so engrossed in joining radio that she probably felt sitting in the studio to watch the noontime show was part of her learning process. She was right, after all.

We didn't hear from her again after she transferred to the Philippine Women's University, until she became the famous Inday Badiday. She had radio shows and that was where we called her one day and asked her to join our class reunion. She was excited about it. We had a short conversation and she laughed out loud when we gave her a quick update on our UP classmates.

She promised to attend the reunion, but she later said on her radio show, "Sorry, Dolly, I can't make it to our reunion at the UP High School. But I'll try next time."

Surprise bundle

We missed her in all the reunions as she became more popular and busy with her shows, such as "See True," "Nothing But the Truth," "Eye to Eye," etc. But sometime in 1985, we had lunch together in a restaurant in Quezon City, when she was pregnant with Clara. She said it was a surprise bundle of joy that she was carrying.

Inday beamed with happiness. We wished her well and followed all her success stories and projects with people from all walks of life.

We were so proud of her.

The last time I spoke to her was earlier this year when we were supposed to get together again with the UP High group. She told me she hadn't been well but that she would join us after her group prayer.

Now we miss her voice, on TV, radio and the telephone. But our memories of Ludy—Inday Badiday—will linger on.

We love you, Inday. May you find eternal happiness in God's love.

PARTYING 'PRESIDENTIABLE.' Gloria Macapagal (at right) and boyfriend Mike Arroyo in a '60s party with the author

GUITAR MAN now and in the early '60s

Rock 'n' roll will never die, not while I'm around

I belted out 'Long Tall Sally' to the delight of the class. I still remember the applause and joy

By Ramon 'RJ' Jacinto
Contributor

I HAVE been blessed with many things and my love for rock 'n' roll is certainly one of them.

When Lil' Richard's "Long Tall Sally" sailed through the airwaves and rock 'n' roll movies started showing in Manila, I became a true addict of music. I was 11 years old and in Grade 7 in 1956. Classes had just finished and my classmates and I were just milling around, talking. Suddenly, I found myself singing "Long Tall Sally." One of my classmates must have liked it and pushed me to the teacher's podium in front. Next thing I knew, everybody was chanting "sing, sing, sing!"

I was transported to another dimension and I found myself pounding at the teacher's podium pretending it was a piano. I started to really belt out "Long Tall Sally," to the delight and cheers of the whole class. I still remember the magical feeling of applause and joy.

The rock 'n' roll bug had bitten me.

My mom bought me a local guitar from a Lumanog music store. I had learned some ukelele chords earlier, and I started listening to "Diana" by Paul Anka, "Rock Around the Clock" by Bill Haley and, of course, Elvis Presley.

Entering high school at 12 years old, I had picked up some chords singing Jimmy Rodgers songs during one summer vacation in Baguio. I started singing at parties and jam sessions, singing folk songs and accompanying myself on the guitar.

Then I heard Duane Eddy's twangy guitar as well as instrumental groups such as Johnny and The Hurricanes and the Fireballs. I begged my mom to buy me an amp and an electric guitar during one of our vacation trips to Tokyo. I was soon the proud owner of two Teisco guitars and an Ace Tone amp!

Bass on bass

Exactly four years since I pounded at my teacher's desk, I made my first public appearance at the Ateneo de Manila High School Christmas party on Dec. 5, 1960. The whole high school population rocked to my music. I knew I had hit something!

We were four in the group, with no bass player. But we had this gasoline drum made into bass, and I recruited one of my classmates, Robert Bass. Surely, a guy named Bass could play bass.

I was wrong. So we improvised. Since rock 'n' roll was mostly 3-4 chords, we wrote "1, 2, 3, 4" on the neck of the improvised bass. I told Robert, "Just follow what Alan Austria shouts at you. If he says no. 1, press no. 1 with your left hand, pound on the bass strong with your right hand and always on the beat. You'll be OK."

It was a roaring success. "Ramon and the Riots" was born. From that time on, my time was strictly divided between music and studies. Girls were secondary.

We got another classmate, Jimmy Colayco, to play rhythm guitar.

I was 15 and the family was vacationing in Boston when I pulled my mom into a music store and asked her to buy me a genuine American guitar. I was captivated by a new sound—"Walk, Don't Run" and "No Trespassing" by the Ventures, which I played over and over again. I had to have a good guitar that sounded just like that.

Today, bands are king again. The guitar reigns again

First hits

In the music store, I saw a Chet Atkins Gretsch 6120. I thought it was the same guitar the Ventures had since the album cover showed a similar red guitar.

But when I met the Ventures a year later, they revealed that the end guitar was merely a prop. They actually used Fender guitars. The guys on the album were not even the Ventures and I had bought the wrong guitar.

No wonder. Try as I did, I could not get the Ventures' brilliant sound from my Gretsch guitar.

Soon, I coaxed my mom into buying me a Fender Jazzmaster and a Stratocaster. I equipped The Riots with first-class Fender instruments, and the rest is history.

My first hit was "Weightless," which I wrote and recorded using the Gretsch guitar I bought in Boston. The song became so popular everybody was whistling it.

Soon, another composition, "Mashi-Mashi," a mashed potato instrumental number where I used my spanking new Jazzmaster, also became no. 1. RJ and the Riots became the most popular band during the early '60s, releasing two albums and 40 hit singles.

Soon, there were garage bands in many homes, playing instrumental numbers, Beatles and Beach Boys. The other popular local groups included the Hi-Jacks, The Electromaniacs, Eddie Villanueva and The Technicolors, The Deltas, The Phantoms and even female instrumental groups, like the one headed by my sister Nanette, The Ponydebts.

Those were the golden years (1961-1964).

Martial Law exile

In 1963, I set up dzRJ, a backyard radio station, in my parents' home. It was manned by my gang who called themselves The Rioteers.

I wish every teenager could experience what we had. We would hang around the house, at the radio station, swim, play billiards and make music, play basketball, and, of course, party to the max. It was good clean fun.

We soon published a magazine, "Teenstone," and a student paper, "Boss Era." Mike Arroyo, now the First Gentleman, was the publisher of Teenstone, and Bernie Evangelista and Alan Austria took care of Boss Era.

But all things must pass, they say. Those magical years passed. Everybody graduated, worked, and got married. I was exiled during Martial Law (1972-1986). The military seized my radio stations and our family's steel mills.

Coming back

On Feb. 23, 1986, my backyard station DZRJ became "Radyo Bandido" and was used by broadcaster June Keithley and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin to rally the people to Edsa to stage the peaceful revolution of 1986.

Poetic justice. The forces that forced me and my family into exile were now driven out by the revolutionary forces using my radio station. A tiny rock 'n' roll station became the voice of democracy.

I returned on March 5, 1986, and dzRJ and three other radio stations were returned to me in May 1986. I did not realize the magical years were going to pass my way again.

dzRJ started playing retro revival music from the '50s and '60s and, soon afterward, the '70s.

Rajah Broadcasting network grew into 10 radio stations nationwide.

Live bands also started coming back. Today, bands are king again. The guitar reigns again. Young talented guitar and band players abound.

I now realize I do not want the music to end. The joy of sharing my music with others and making others happy and feeling younger beats any triumph I have experienced in other fields of endeavor.

I am sure Joe Mari Chan knows the feeling.

More meaning

Now that I am 59 years old, music is once again the central activity of my life. Oh, what a thrilling journey the rest of my life will be! I find that as I age, music has more meaning and I enjoy it more.

There was a neon sign at Bistro RJ that read, "Rock 'n' Roll will never die."

You bet your RJ guitar rock 'n' roll will never die, especially while I am around.

(DZRJ celebrates its 40th anniversary with "DZRJ at 40: The Grand Reunion," on Oct. 25 at 8 p.m. Presented by Globe, the show features Jose Mari Chan, Jaya, Pepe Smith, Hotdog, Pilita Corrales, Elizabeth Ramsey, Sampaguita and Cowboy, Andrew E., Asin, Barbie's Cradle, Moonstar 88, Rage Band, Janet Basco, Louie Heredia, Pido and Take 1, "Elvises" Edgar Opida and Boy Sanchez, Boyfriends, Aegis, Jackie Magno, Pat Castillo, 17:28, Vienna, Father & Sons, The Moonstrucks, Ernie Delgado of Electromaniacs and many more.)

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3 THE RUNDOWN	THX GUARANTEED SEATS 3 UNDERWORLD 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:30	2 THE MAGDALENE SISTERS 1:30 2:00 4:30 7:00 9:30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 CITY OF GOD 1:10, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00 11:30	3 AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
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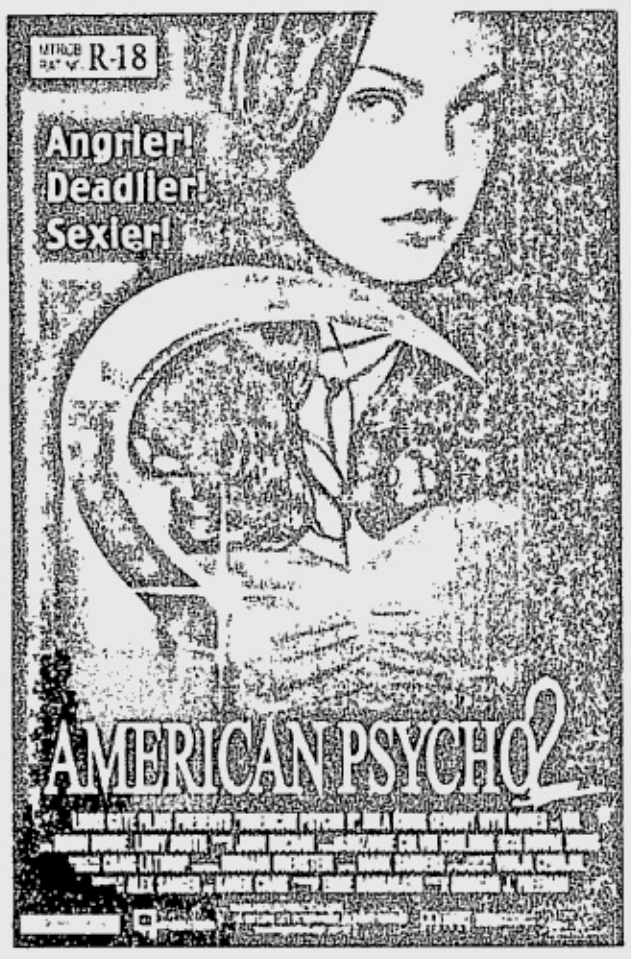

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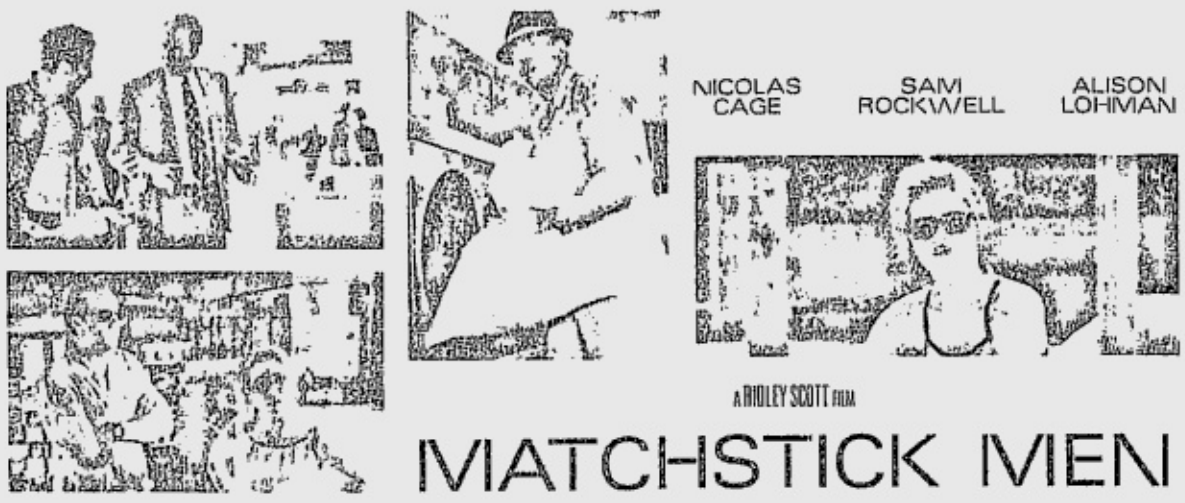

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3 (DTS)	INNER SENSES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	AMERICAN PIE
5 (DOLBY)	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
6 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE
7 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	UNDERWORLD
8	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
9	UNDERWORLD
10	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)

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2	TREK
3	PILYA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX)	AMERICAN PIE
5	KISKISAN

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1	PILYA
2	KISKISAN
3	UNDERWORLD
4	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
5	AMERICAN PIE
6	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)

www.clickthecity.com.ph star
(Las Pinas) tel 873.5004

1	TAKE MY BODY
2	NEW BLOOD

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(Makati City) TEL. 893-4225, 892-2503

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(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2	DADDY DAY CARE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL INC
tel 930.9515

1	
2	
3	

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) TEL. 776-74-21

1	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
2	NAGDADALAGA
3	OUT RAGE
4	

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
4	RESERVE
5	TREK
6	PILYA
7 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE
8 (SDDS)	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
9 (DOLBY)	UNDERWORLD

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	RESERVE

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364-3781

1	PILYA
2	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3	KATAS
4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
5	KISKISAN
6 (SDDS)	RUN DOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
7 (DTS)	UNDERWORLD
8	TREK
9	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0082

1	PILYA
2 (SDDS)	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE
4 (SDDS)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
5	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3	AMERICAN PIE
4	PILYA
5 (SDDS)	UNDERWORLD

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	RESERVE

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	RESERVE

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	PILYA
Lords	PILYA
Jennet	RESERVE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2	AMERICAN PIE
3	PILYA
4	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
2	PILYA
3	UNDERWORLD
4	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
5	TREK

FRC Cinema
(Talaba Bacoor Cavite)

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 , 879.2029

1	PILYA
2	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA

THE CENTER OF ENTERTAINMENT
Araneta

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7
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1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2	PILYA
3 (DOLBY)	UNDERWORLD
4 (SDDS)	AMERICAN PIE
5 (DTS)	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
6	HOW TO DEAL
7	HOUSE OF 1,000 CORPSES

FarmersPlaza CINEMAS
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1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Cinema 2000
Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) TEL. (049) 837-0926

1	KISKISAN
2	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW
2	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE
4	FREDDY VS. JASON

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Binan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 (DOLBY)	FREDDY VS. JASON
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE
4	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel (075) 568.6771

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2	FREDDY VS. JASON
3 (DOLBY)	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2	DARK WATER
3 (DOLBY)	BASIC
4	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

Magic Star Cinema
(Tarlac City) tel (045) 611.4305

1 (DOLBY)	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2 (DTS)	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	KISKISAN
2	MOTE
3 (DTS)	HOT DOG THE MOVIE
4	RUNDOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	AMERICAN PIE
2	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 (SDDS)	RUN DOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
4	KISKISAN
5	KATAS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Binan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	NENA INOSENTE
2	AMERICAN PIE
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249.2558

1	AMERICAN PIE
2	DARK WATER
3	NENA INOSENTE

Mega Center Mall
(Cabanatuan City) tel (044) 463.3283

1	KATAS
2	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3 (DTS)	MEDALLION
4	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	KISKISAN
2	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
3	RESERVE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	KUNG AKO NALANG SANA
2	HOW TO DEAL
3	KISKISAN
4	TAKE MY BODY

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045)887-5001 TO 03

1 (DOLBY DI	MEDALLION
2	RUN DOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE
4	KISKISAN

Cine Nepo Mall
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887-8121

1	MEDALLION
2	RUN DOWN (SNEAK PREVIEW)
3 (DOLBY)	HOW TO DEAL
4	AMERICAN PIE

*Movies are subject to change without prior notice

ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

Level 4
Festival Supermall
Filinvest - Alabang
Tel. 85035-71 to 72
Schedule subject to change without prior notice

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	SEX BOMB / RAMPADORA
ODEON	X-MEN 2
ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY / LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	PILYA
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	PILYA
B	
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
CINEMA-2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	KISKISAN
CINEMA-2	KATAS
CINEMA-3	PILYA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MEDALLION
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	TREK
CINEMA-6	TAKE MY BODY
CINEMA-7	FIRST TIME
CINEMA-8	JASON VS FREDDY
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	UNDERWORLD
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HOW TO DEAL
CINEMA-12	HOUSE OF 1000 CORPSES
CINEMA-14	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO
CINEMA-15	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
(LAS PIÑAS)	HOLLYWOOD HOMICIDE
CINEMA-1	MEDALLION
CINEMA-2	DARK WATER
CINEMA-4	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

'Fastest rapper' has debut album

CALLED "the fastest rapper" in the country, Gloc 9—real name Aries Pollisco—has just released his debut album, also called "Gloc 9," from Star Records.

The album contains 11 cuts, plus one bonus track. All cuts were written or co-written, and arranged and produced by Gloc 9 himself, including the duet "Bakit" with Cookie Chua, from the 2002 Himig Handog Love Songs competition.

Also included are the songs he wrote and performed for the movies "Jologs," "Videoke King," and "Trip." The carrier single is "Hinahanap ang Puso." The album is available on CDs and cassettes.

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. Nos. 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

HOW TO DEAL PG13 10:, 3:20, 5:30, 7:40, 9:50	UNDERWORLD R18 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:10	AMERICAN PIE THE WEDDING R18 12:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20
THE RUNDOWN PG13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00	KUNG AKO NA LANG SANA GP 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:30, 9:50	ONCE UPON A TIME IN MEXICO R18 1:00, 3:15

MATINEE ₱50.00 FREE SEATING SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

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Oct. 13 &14, 2003
MTRCB RATING: PG13
Tickets available at:
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TUTUBAN • SOUTHMALL • BACOOR
SUCAT • PAMPANGA • CEBU • ILOILO
DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO
Regular showing on October 22, 200
For screening schedule, dial 833 9999

MTRCB PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed

New Int'l Action Superstar is born!

Wrestling champ The Rock, next Schwarzenegger in 'RUNDOWN'?

Seven-time world wrestling champion The Rock (SCORPION KING, THE MUMMY RETURNS) is star of THE RUNDOWN, a spectacular, crowd-pleasing, no-holds-barred jungle-action adventure, and the No.1 movie in America.

The testosterone-packed movie launches The Rock as the international Action Superstar that Arnold Schwarzenegger. Schwarzenegger shows his support for The Rock as the politics- bound action hero appears briefly in the slam-bang action comedy.

The Rock (or Dwayne Johnson) is Beck, a bounty hunter assigned to retrieve a wise-cracking double dealer played by Seann William Scott (Stifler in the American Pie movies), who is on a treasure hunt deep in the Brazilian jungle.

The Rundown features The Rock in a series of jaw-dropping fight scenes, including an eye-popping rumble in the jungle with our very own Ernie Reyes Sr., Fil-Am martial arts champion.

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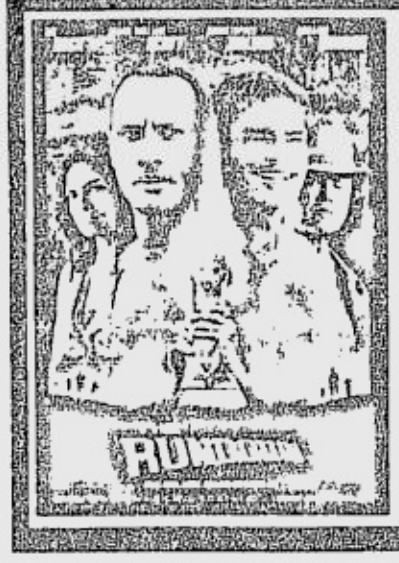

TODAY
OCTOBER 13 (Mon.) & 14 (Tue.)
SCREENING SCHEDULES
AYALA CENTER CEBU
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
ALABANG TOWN CENTER
12:05, 2:10, 4:15, 6:20, 8:25, 10:30
GLORIETTA 1
11:30, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30
GLORIETTA 4
12:30, 2:30, 4:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30
GREENBELT 3
1:55, 4:15, 6:35, 8:55, 11:15
REGULAR RUN BEGINS OCT. 22 IN ALL AYALA CINEMAS
MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)
AYALA CINEMAS. BEYOND MOVIES.

10.16-26
AYALA CINEMAS
Titulo
En Construccion
El Ultimo Viaje De Robert Rylands
Martin Hache
El Bola
La Comunidad
Sin Verguenza
It's For You
Silvia Prieto
Spanish Film Festival
For inquiries, pls. cal 752-7872

MTRCB RATING G | ALL AGES ADMITTED | GET FREAKY IN CINEMAS OCTOBER 15

Every teenager's nightmare... turning into her mother.
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E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Amazing little brown guy vs The Rock

By Ruben V. Nepales
L.A. Correspondent

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

LOS ANGELES—Imagine a small Filipino-American actor beating the hell out of the 6-foot-5, 240-pound champion wrestler-turned-actor The Rock.

The Pinoy dude, perhaps smaller than even the average Filipino, flies and spins in mid-air, delivers kicks and chops to the stunned ex-football player giant.

He may play a Brazilian native and spew Portuguese words ("convincing accent," a Brazilian journalist colleague later told me), but the nose, short frame and golden brown color of that rippled bod told me from the very first frame of his scenes in the movie that he is *kalahi*.

I was tempted to act like one of those wild wrestling fans cheering the champion to smash the opponent. Except that I was egging the Pinoy on screen to finish the hulk (also known as Dwayne Johnson), and not the other way around. In the darkness of the theater, I wanted to scream and to clap for the amazing little brown guy.

Except that this was at a press screening, so I tried to behave.

Short but special

The movie is "The Rundown" and the Fil-Am actor is Ernie Reyes Jr. With his shorn hair and shirtless buff chest adding menace to his deadly blows, Ernie looks like he could indeed finish The Rock, but a female character (Rosario Dawson) stops the fight. Of course, this is The Rock's movie so he can't be killed. But in this action-comedy, Ernie comes close as a guerilla in the Amazon jungle. His Manito rebel is one of the folks that The Rock's for-hire character encounters in Brazil in his mission to bring treasure seeker Seann William Scott back to the US of A.

It's a short role, yet Ernie is earning special mention from film reviewers for his scene-stealing spinning and twirling performance. (Christopher Walken, playing a jungle warlord, is also tickling the critics, as usual, but more about him in a separate piece.) Ernie could have been one of those forgettable fighters that are easily dispensed with and forgotten in a second in today's action films. But because of his spectacular martial arts skills and presence, Ernie—aided by ace Hong Kong stunt/fight coordinator Andy Cheng and director Peter Berg's experience as an actor ("Chicago Hope")—comes out as a memorable character.

So, although Ernie does not get major billing in the movie, the promoters of "The Rundown" are quick to mine the big impact that he is making. At the film's recent premiere at the Universal Studios, which INQUIRER Entertainment attended, Ernie, in a white *sando* to show off his physique and jeans, was trotted out like a star on the red carpet. A crowd watching the celebrities walk on the red carpet screamed his name, as a Brazilian band played jungle rhythms.

Joy in his eyes

The young guy who was the stunt double (he was in the Donatello suit) in "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" and who was promoted to co-starring status in "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II" was introduced by publicists to the reporters of E!, CNN and all the big media outlets lined up along the red carpet.

Ernie demonstrated his gravity-defying kick and complete spin in mid-air for the TV cameras so many times that by the time he stood in front of INQUIRER Entertainment, he was pooped but still smiling, game and looking like he was loving every moment of this evening. There was joy in his alert, twinkling eyes.

He has grown back his hair (spiky and dyed brownish blonde) so he looked less menacing than he did in the movie. His dad Ernie Sr., martial arts pioneer in the US and actor; brother Lee Reyes, also an aspiring actor; and mom Sue Asinas, who all dutifully stood by at each stop of the red carpet, were beaming with pride.

"I'm so excited," Ernie told me. "I can't wait to go in there and watch the movie with everybody. This is an amazing night."

With those words, he and his family strode, followed minutes later by The Rock, Seann and Rosario, into the huge Universal Amphitheatre, converted that evening into a special moviehouse.

A week earlier, in interviews at a hotel, I asked Seann, director Peter Berg and The Rock about Ernie.

"Ernie Reyes Jr.—wow! I've never seen anybody fight like him," Seann, star of the "American Pie" movies, told me and eight other journalists. "He doesn't have any wires in that fight. He was just unbelievable! He is one of the best movie fighters in the world."

Ernie later told me that Seann called him the Michael Jordan of the martial arts world.

Tough fighter

Peter proclaimed, "Ernie Reyes is going to be a movie star. It is all due to (fight coordinator) Andy Cheng. He asked me who I wanted for the role. I told Andy that I wanted the fiercest fighter alive today and he's got to be able to act. I go, let's have auditions. I was ready to see 200 people but Andy brought in one guy, Ernie, who did his thing. I told him, 'You're hired! You look perfect. You're a really good actor.' He is as tough a fighter as I've ever seen.

"We saw a lot of fighters auditioning for other roles in this movie. Ernie is in a whole league by himself. You see this kid skidding and flipping. Not one wire, ever. Everyone else was using wires."

The fight scene that is unexpectedly bringing a second phase to Ernie's acting career combines a bit of *capoeira*, the Brazilian martial arts, and Hong Kong style fight choreography.

"I saw the (*capoeira*) style and I decided, let's take some of this *capoeira* and use it as a departure point," Peter explained. "I said, let's make it a little more fantastic, a bit unbelievable. That's how we got guys jumping on their hands, kicking him (The Rock)."

Asked about the editing, which enhanced the fight scene (shot in two weeks), Peter quipped, "I have ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder). So I instructed, quick, quick, quick!"

The Rock said, "Ernie is an exceptional athlete and fighter. I saw him last night. We hung out a little bit. He's a really special person, too. Deeply rooted, you can tell. I was blown away by Ernie and the stunt guys. I was happy that I could defend myself and make it look like I knew what I was doing because those guys were amazing."

Awesome experience

A few days before the premiere, I interviewed Ernie by phone. He was an eager, articulate and pleasant voice on the other line. Informed about all the praise from The Rock and company, Ernie could only laugh and say, "Sounds good" and "Right on!"

Returning the praise of The Rock, he said, "To be able to work with The Rock was an awesome experience because most of the time, when you're working with actors, you have to worry, am I going too fast for them or is my power overwhelming? Obviously, The Rock is a world-class athlete. I didn't have to worry about hurting him, which gave me the opportunity to be free and allow myself to go all out in everything that I was doing in those fight scenes."

But how did he overcome the obvious size difference between them?

"For me, his size never mattered. Like I said, my usual worry is, am I going to have to baby my technique in order to make the other actor or stuntman feel comfortable? With a big guy like that, I didn't ever have to worry about it. On the contrary, it allowed me to actually do what I can really do."

He is grateful to Peter for not allowing him to be one of those amazing yet faceless fight actors who are forgotten as soon as they are killed by the *bida*. Ernie explained, "Peter was great to work with because in creating a fight scene, one of the most important things is trying to reveal your character as you fight. There must be emotion, too, which is lacking in fight scenes in a lot of movies, especially nowadays with all the CGI and Hong Kong style fighting."

Ernie's narration of how Peter cast him is more interesting. "Peter told Andy (Cheng, the fight coordinator), well, let's see how fierce he (Ernie) can get because this guy is going to be fighting The Rock. When Peter said, let's see how fierce he can get, I just went for it, all out. I did a small demonstration and I let it go, man. I let all my emotions out. I just went crazy, basically. At the end of it, everybody (the whole stunt team was present) was clapping. Peter turned to me and said, 'man, what are you so angry about?' I screamed and I charged at him. I grabbed him by the leg and picked him up over my head like I was going to throw him down to the ground and fight him. Then I let him go. Everybody started laughing. He gave me the job right there."

RP vacation

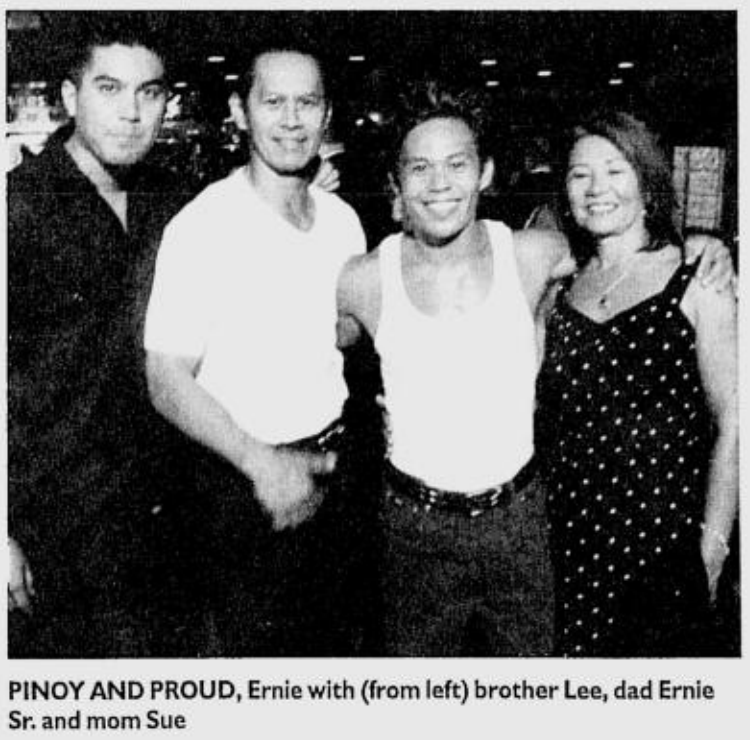
It takes a lot of workout to be able to pick up your would-be director, especially the taller and heavier Peter, sling him over your shoulders and mock-throw him to the ground.

"I work out twice a day every day," Ernie said. "In the morning I do my cardiovascular training. I run five to six miles a day. Then I do my calisthenics—push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups and dips. I work out in martial arts in the evening."

Tagalog is an alien language for him. "I've been trying to learn here and there," he said. "But not being around my parents, it's just

AMAZING/ C2

RED CARPET treatment is accorded Ernie Reyes Jr., who spins in mid-air in an unforgettable turn as a foe of The Rock (above), also known as Dwayne Johnson. Our correspondent in L. A. gets a red-carpet welcome, too, complete with a name card for the Philippine Daily "Enquirer" PHOTOS BY RUBEN J. NEPALES



PINOY AND PROUD, Ernie with (from left) brother Lee, dad Ernie Sr. and mom Sue

'You know what the situation is. You can't sit around and complain about it. You've got to keep moving forward'

WORLD-RENOWNED Atlantis crystalware, a proud Portuguese export

Presents from the Portuguese

PORTUGUESE national costumes on display at the lobby of Hotel InterCon Makati until Oct. 22

For feedback, text us at (0919) 880-3354 or (0916) 200-1160 or e-mail us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Subsection Editor **Lito Zulueta**

After Spain, erstwhile imperial rival Portugal is next in line to offer us a rousing cultural festival

promises to whip up a fascinating array of Portuguese dishes culled from a land steeped in centuries of dining pleasure and experimentation. Portugal, after all, fought wars and sailed oceans just to get the perfect spices for its cuisine!

Hand in hand with the buffet will be a wine festival offering the country's best vintage spirits, as well as a display of Portuguese national costumes, and a performance by the Grupo de Dancas e Cantares de Macau, a folk dancing group from the country's glittering crown colony and last outpost in Asia before it was handed back to China in 1999.

Those inclined to more academic pursuits

PRESENTS/ D3

By Gibbs Cadiz

FACT: Under medieval international law, the Philippine islands should not have gone to Spain, but to Portugal.

The 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas enacted by the world's diplomatic arbiter at the time, Pope Alexander VI, divided the then-known areas of the globe into two spheres: All lands to the west belonged to Spain, and all lands to the east, including Asia and Africa, belonged to Portugal.

How, then, did we end up speaking Español rather than Portuges, and eating paella rather than bacalao?

Blame it on the brash horse-trading that oiled and spurred the two countries' massive empire-building quests.

Thus, while much of Brazil was carved up for Spain, Portugal eventually ended up claiming the whole territory for itself, resulting in today's biggest Portuguese-speaking country.

Spain, for its part, grabbed the Moluccas islands (part of present-day Indonesia), which under the treaty were Portuguese properties. When the latter came a-calling to reclaim its domain, the Castillian kingdom gave up the islands in return for something else: Portuguese recognition of Spanish rule in the Philippines.

And that's how, four centuries later, our culture pulsates to a Latin heritage of a Hispanic, not Portuguese, kind.

But better late than never. In the last few years, as Portugal has become a thriving member of the European Union and a respected player in the world stage, it has sought to establish closer relations with countries like ours with whom it shares many common attributes—whether we notice them or not.

As current ambassador to the Philippines João Caetano da Silva points out, there's reason to celebrate "the many affinities between [our] countries: a common Latin heritage, a Catholic tradition, a strong maritime influence, big communities abroad and a similar temperament."

"For both peoples," he adds, "the family is the strongest pillar in society."

And with other countries regularly giving Manila a taste of their rich cultural pickings (there's France's "French Spring," Spain's "Fiesta!" and Japan's movie and art festivals, among others), can Portugal be ever far behind?

Celebration

This month, Filipinos will be treated to another facet of Iberian culture when the Portuguese embassy and the Portuguese External Trade Institute launch the Portuguese Festival, a two-week celebration highlighting the country's food, wines, ceramics and crystal exports and many other modern and traditional aspects (including historical studies) that link Portugal to the Philippines.

Now on its second year, the festival opened Oct. 6 with a presentation of world-renowned Vista Alegre porcelain and ceramic pieces and Atlantis crystal and glass creations at the ambassador's residence.

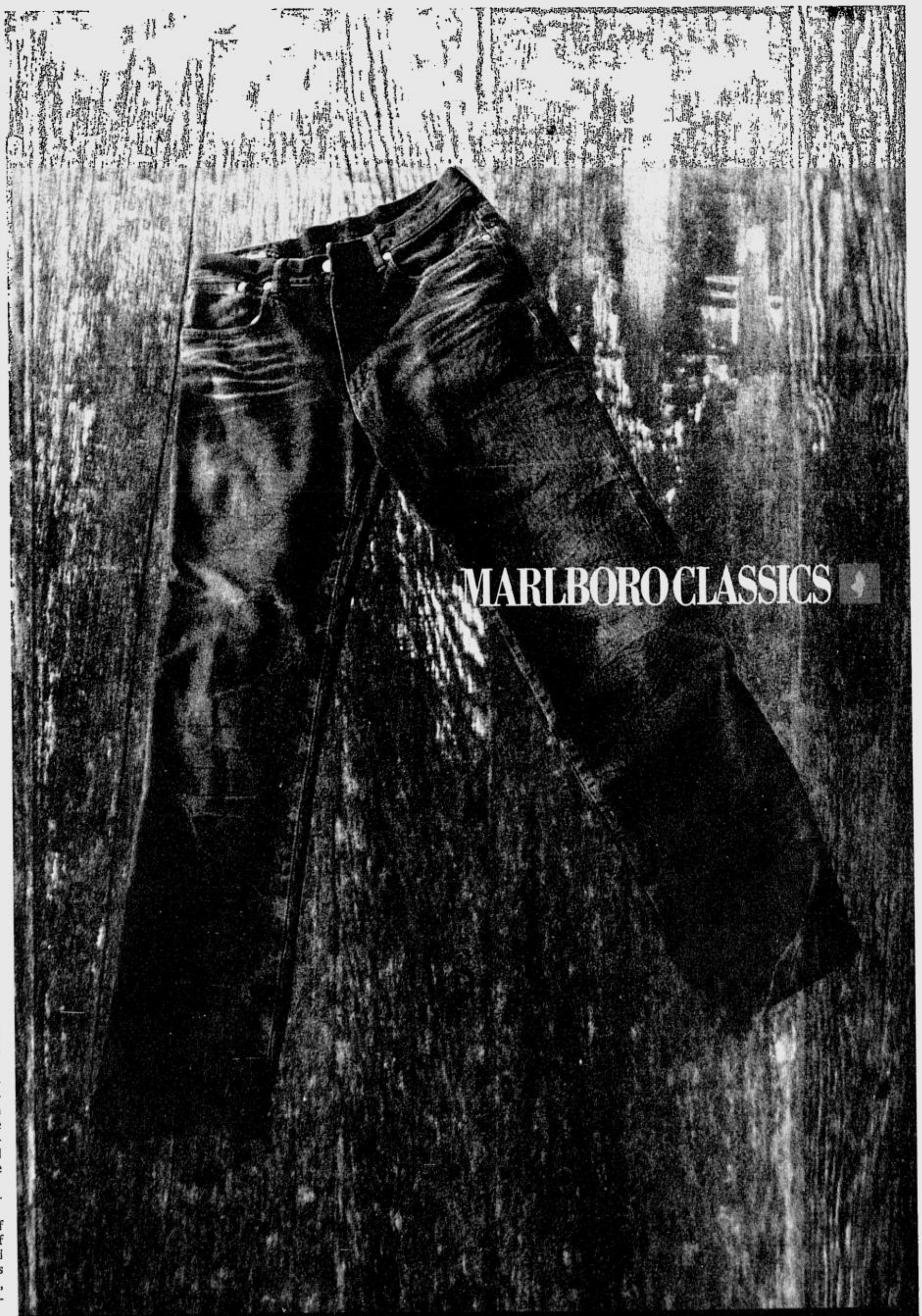
These exquisite pieces are no mere ornamentation; they are symbols of centuries-old excellence in the decorative and giftware arts. Vista Alegre's and Atlantis' company histories date back to Portugal's ancient cultural and commercial glory as a sprawling global empire, and their products' worldwide fame is a justifiable source of pride for the country.

The good news is, they're not just for display.

"The most meaningful economic event of Portuguese Week is the opening of a section of Vista Alegre and Atlantis at Rustan's Makati stores," explains Da Silva. "These companies are a symbol of prestige and excellence [for us], and the Philippines will be, in the future, a platform for the expansion of this group in Asia."

Another high point of the festival is a bacalao feast at Hotel InterContinental Makati. Bacalao (codfish) is Portugal's national dish, and is already quite popular among Pinoys.

For this culinary fest, the embassy has brought in chef Alexandre Ferreira, who



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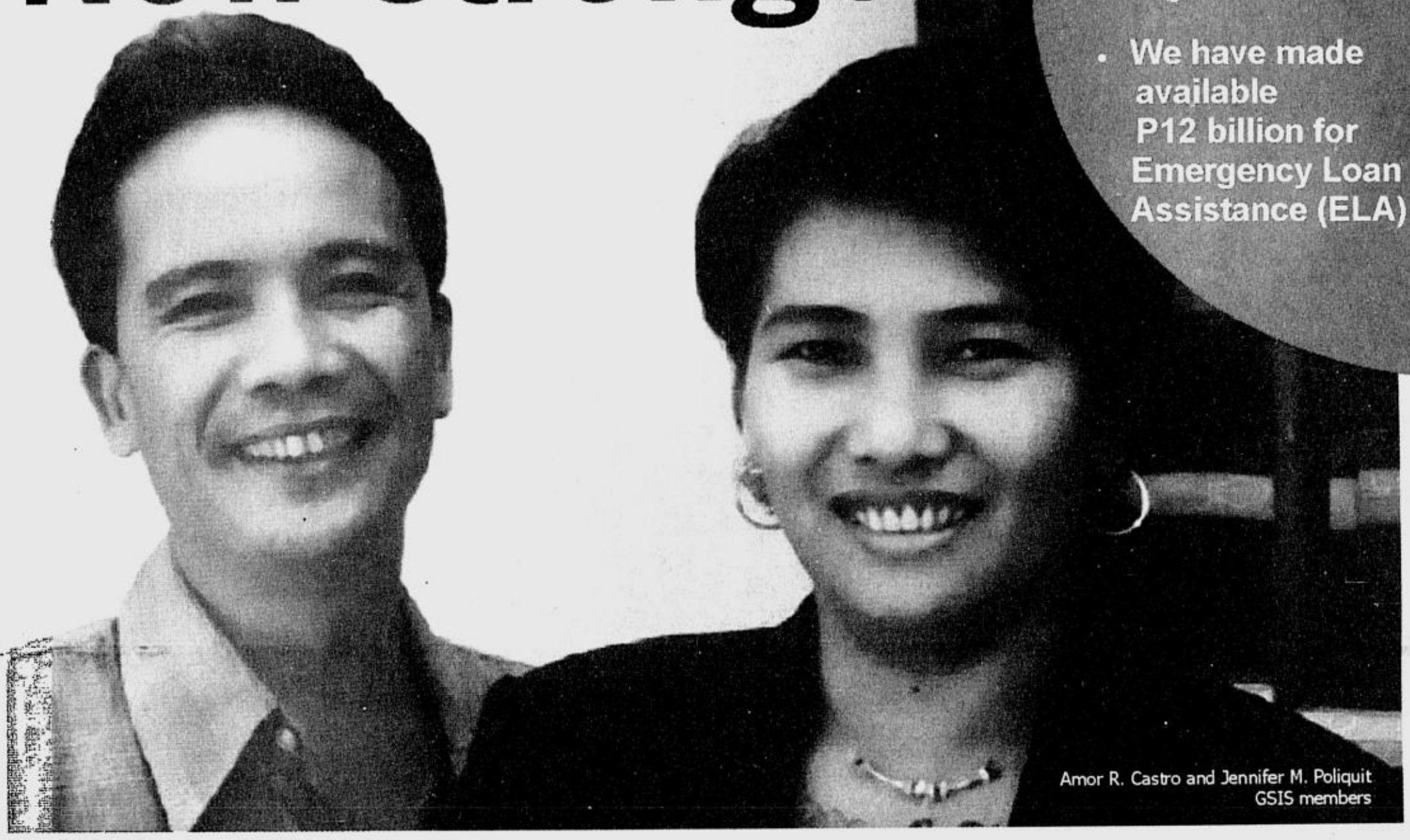

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WE CANNOT STOP NOW. At this point, our data base has already shown that over the years, more than P40B in unremitted premiums and more than P15B in unpaid loan repayments have been accumulated. This will be properly addressed by our computerization program.

However, we have fully resumed our processing operations. Retirement and other insurance and social security benefit checks are being released daily by GSIS offices all over the country. Simultaneously, we continue to reconcile our records with those of our member-agencies.

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We understand the financial imbalance and inconvenience our updating and computerization efforts have caused some of you. We are aware that most of you depend on your GSIS whenever the need for financial assistance arises. We have not reneged on this responsibility.

For your immediate financial requirements, your GSIS Board of Trustees under the administration of Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, has approved, effective MONDAY, 13 Oct. 2003 the granting of an EMERGENCY LOAN ASSISTANCE (ELA) in the amount of P10,000.00 TO ANY AND ALL GSIS MEMBERS WHO WILL APPLY for the same. The ELA is separate and distinct from the salary loan. NO DEDUCTIONS except for the usual service fee and loan redemption insurance premium shall be made on the ELA. Interest is 10% per annum integrated in the 24 monthly amortizations on the loan.

For facility and order, GSIS offices all over the country will accept applications only from official liaison officers.

IN THE MIDST OF WHAT IS SEEMINGLY A DELIBERATE AND CONSCIOUS EFFORT FROM SOME QUARTERS TO STALL OUR EFFORTS AT REFORM, WE STAND FIRM ON OUR COMMITMENT TO SERVE. LET US NOT ALL FALL DOWN ON THE IRRESPONSIBLE CRIES AND FALSITIES OF A HANDFUL, UNINFORMED FEW.

WINSTON F. GARCIA
President and General Manager

Presents from the Portuguese

From page D1

may check out the launching on Oct. 21 at University of Santo Tomas of "The Philippines in the Portuguese Chronicles of the 16th Century," a compilation of the first references to the Philippines made by Portuguese historians of that period.

This publication is an important contribution to our country's historiography, given that most history books routinely cite only Spain as having made inroads into the islands before the onset of Legazpi's definitive conquest in 1565.

Specifically, Portuguese chroniclers such as Fernão Lopez de Castanheda (1500-1559) and João de Barros (1496-1570) made mention of several trips to Mindanao by their compatriots, particularly Simão de Abreu and Jorge de Meneses, whose 1523 explorations came just two years after Magellan died claiming the islands for Spain.

This book launching will be followed by a second seminar among Portuguese and Filipino historians (at the same venue), which aims to complement the historical interaction started in last year's festival when 16th-century Portuguese maps and charts of Southeast Asia were put on exhibit.

On the arts front, Manny Baldemor will showcase his recent paintings of landscapes and impressions of Portugal in an exhibit at the Lobby Art Café of Hotel InterCon.

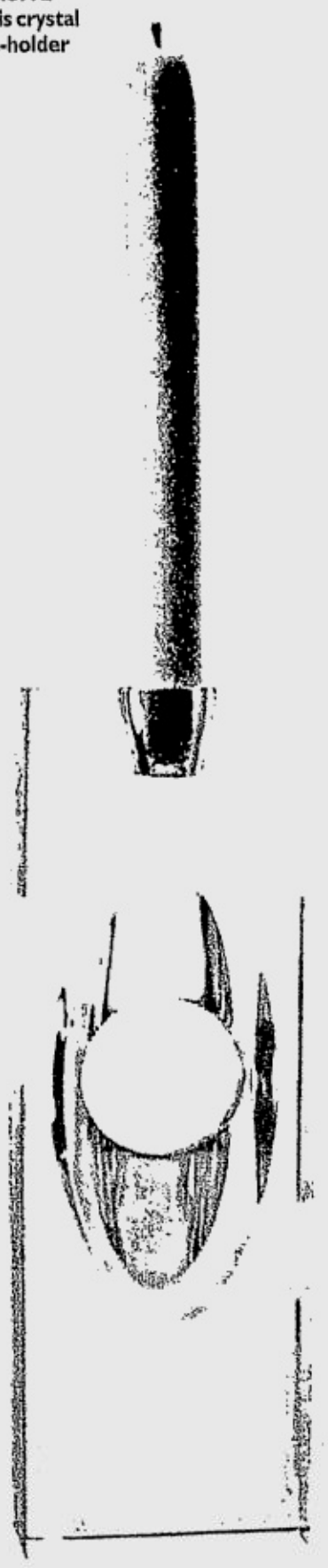
Finally, to underscore the deep ties of faith between the two countries, the festival will also commemorate with religious observances in Makati the last apparition of the Virgin Mary to three poor shepherds of Fatima.

"We invite Filipinos to attend these events, to enjoy some of the best things Portugal has to offer, in order to realize the many similarities which exist between our countries and to arouse interest in discovering Portugal," says Da Silva.

Invitation gladly accepted.

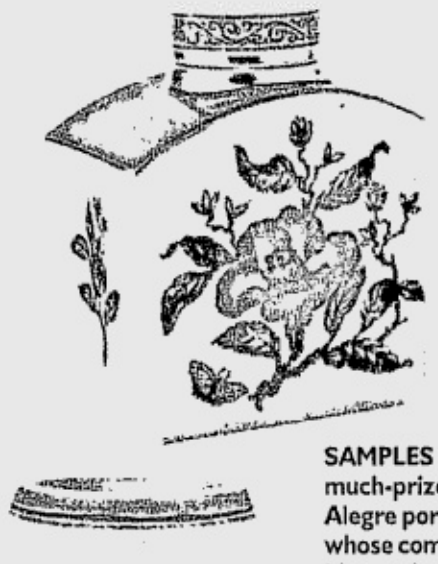
For more details, call the Portuguese Embassy at 8483789 to 90.

E-mail the author at gcadiz@inquirer.com.ph

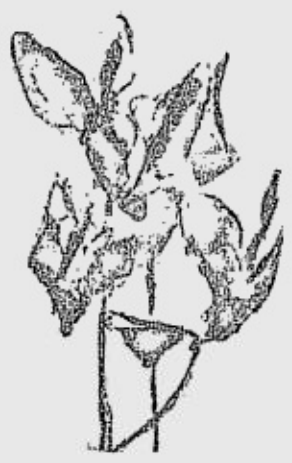


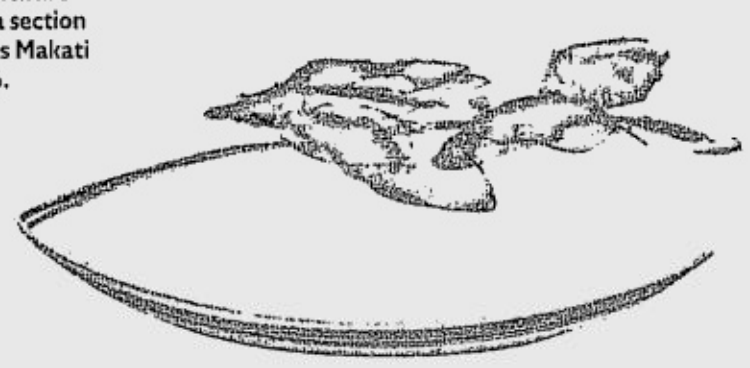
EXQUISITE Atlantis crystal candle-holder

PORTUGUESE ambassador João Caetano da Silva (center) with guests at the presentation of select Vista Alegre porcelain and ceramic pieces and Atlantis crystalware at the ambassador's residence



SAMPLES of much-prized Vista Alegre porcelain, whose company history dates back to Portugal's glory days as a world commercial and maritime power. Vista Alegre and Atlantis giftware will open a section at Rustan's Makati on Oct. 16.





SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Oct. 6—Promotional session of Portuguese ceramics, crystals and wines in the ambassador's residence

Oct. 7—Press launch of the Portuguese Food Festival at Hotel InterContinental

Oct. 9—Opening dinner, with entertainment, of the food festival in the Ballroom of InterCon

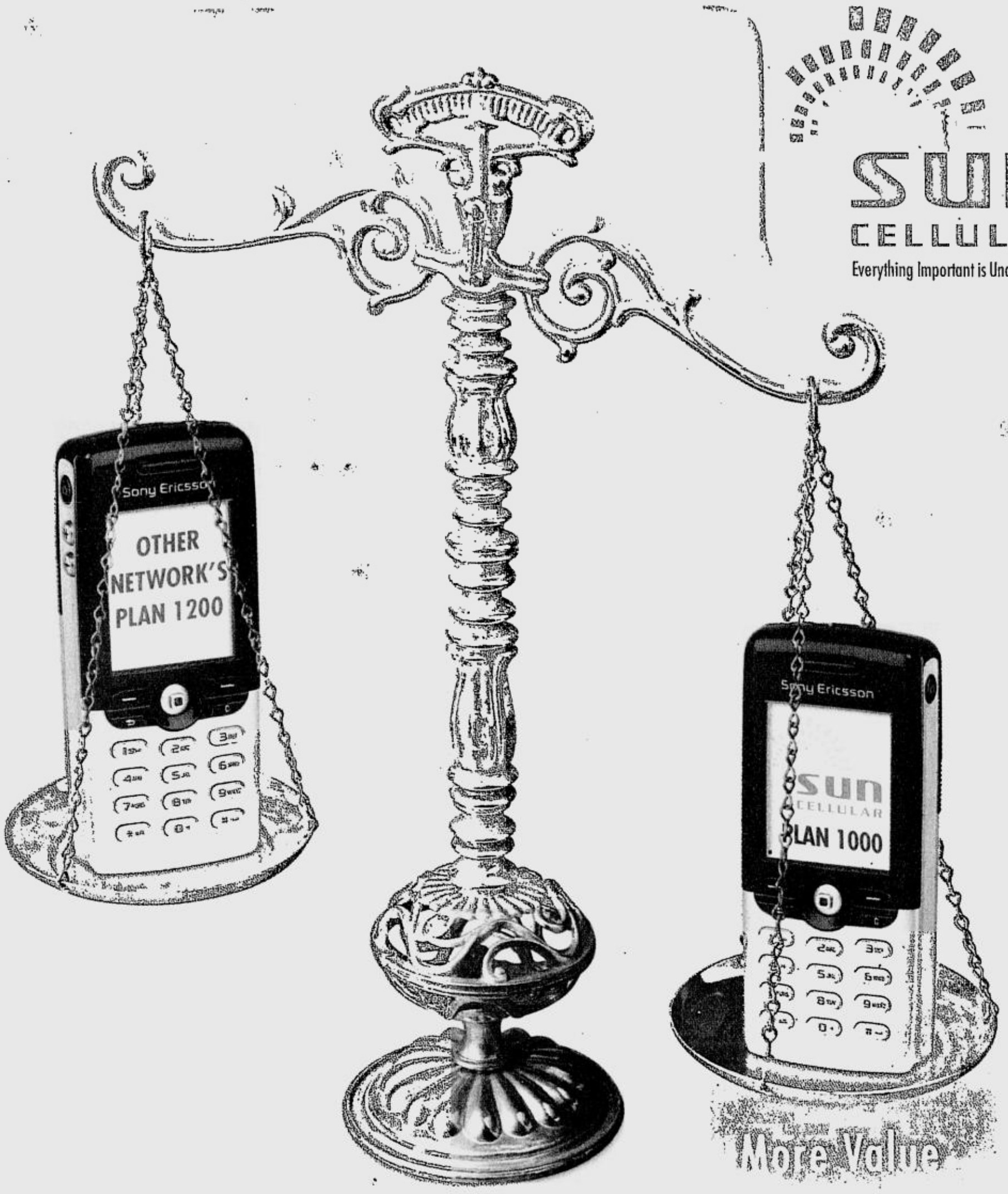
Oct. 10—Inauguration of Manuel Baldemor's painting exhibit at the lobby of InterCon

Oct. 11-13—Celebration of Our Lady of Fatima

Oct. 15—Formal turnover ceremony of "Comenda da Ordem de Merito," a high Portuguese decoration, to Ambassador Bienvenido Tantoco Sr., board chair of the Rustan's group of companies, for his role in strengthening economic relations between the Philippines and Portugal

Oct. 16—Opening of the corner of Vista Alegre/Atlantis (porcelain, ceramics and crystals) at Rustan's Makati

Oct. 21-22—Launching of the book "The Philippines in the Portuguese Chronicles of the 16th Century" at the University of Santo Tomas; seminar by Portuguese and Filipino historians



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Madrid museum pays tribute to Fernando Zobel

The late abstractionist developed in pictorial cycles. As a critic puts it, he 'advanced in circles'

F. Zóbel (1924-1984) in an interview in the 1970s on Spanish TV

By Yeyey Cruz
Contributor

CUENCA is 140 km southeast of Madrid. No one usually goes there, especially if the traveler's itinerary includes cities with the top contemporary art museums and the top industrial designs: Bilbao's still-fresh Guggenheim and its new metro, designed by Norman Foster (affectionately called *fosteritos* by the locals); Barcelona's Macba, designed by Richard Meier and partners; and La Caixa and Madrid's Mncars, more popularly known as the Reina Sofia, after the Queen.

So no one goes to Cuenca, unless you're incredibly bored (or boring) or born there. Except that Cuenca is home to Museo de Arte Abstracto Español, the first museum in Spain to carry Spanish abstract art.

It was a place put together in the picturesque Casas Colgadas or Hanging Houses in 1966 by Fernando Zóbel, an artist born in the Philippines and a pivotal figure in Philippine art history.

Cuenca affords the Filipino art lover the pleasure of seeing the works of Fernando Zóbel in a singular context: among his Spanish peers.

Four creators

There's a Zóbel retrospective not in Cuenca but in Madrid, at Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofia, a former hospital turned museum.

The show sourced the works from various individuals and collections from all over the world, including, of course, the Philippines. It has four curators.

At the start of the show last February, one of the curators, Belen Diaz de Rabago, toured me around the halls. Already up was a huge black-and-white photograph of Fernando Zóbel sitting inside a gallery in Germany.

We met Raphael Perez Madero, main curator for the show and the acknowledged expert on Zóbel. With him was Peter Soriano, Zóbel's nephew who helped curate the show (the two other curators were De Rabago and Marta González Obregozo). They greeted us, eagerly waiting for news about the Philippine works.

I told them the mishaps of art transport from Third World to First World. I was worried about the conditions into which the paintings would arrive.

Being February, it was the height of winter. Madrid was freezing cold. I had been told 15-19 degrees Celsius was as bad as it went, but it went further down (in fact, there was a rare snowfall in Madrid later).

While most of the loans had come from within Spain itself, there were pictures coming from the US; two from Hong Kong; and, of course, from the Philippines.

Madero said that it would be the first time that the early abstractions made by Zóbel would be seen in Spain. Nine works had been loaned from various collections in the Philippines, majority of which making up the first room of the retrospective.

Madero explained the show was arranged, not only chronologically but also, more important, by "series." The hanging was almost chronological until the '70s. But as one went through the rooms, the themes or the "series" Zóbel had worked on synchronously throughout his career became apparent.

He did not develop as a painter; instead he had pictorial cycles. As Calvo Seraller wrote, Zóbel "advanced in circles."

As Madero writes in the catalogue: "We have arranged the famous series ("El Júcar," "Las Orillas," "Diálogos con la Pintura," "La Serie Blanca") in such a way that we may contemplate these themes independently, beyond the limits of chronology."

The works borrowed from the Philippines concentrated on the early part of Zóbel's career,

MADRID/ E2

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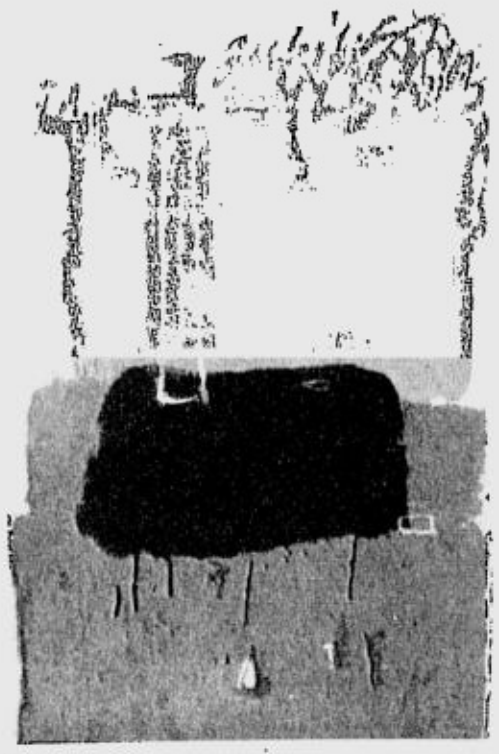
Beyond abstraction

By Constantino C. Tejero



"LBS03"

"LBS01"

NEW to us is abstractionist Joseph Lofranco's savage use of color. A casual viewer is bound to stare in stupefaction.

In his previous exhibits, Lofranco displayed his adroitness with soft tones and monochromes. Then early this year, he unfurled an 8 ft x 82 ft mural of red along a hallway of the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

"Assuming the Assumption" was shown in a semi-grant exhibition at the CCP for a month. The single artwork filled up the exhibition area with a brilliant red streaked with white, blue, yellow floating shapes.

Now the artist steps farther into the realm of chromatics, and explores a world of clashing hues.

What constitutes his color theory is extravagantly displayed in the nine pieces in mixed media (oil, acrylic, charcoal, industrial paint) in his eponymous exhibit in Big & Small Art Co. at Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, until today.

Each piece is a happy mixture of Fauvism, Color Field Painting and Art Informel, characterized by thick layering of paint, doodles, scratches.

But more remarkable is the neon intensity of the hues bouncing off the white gallery walls: avocado-green, jade-green, fire-engine red, mango-yellow, red-orange, violet, various tones of blue.

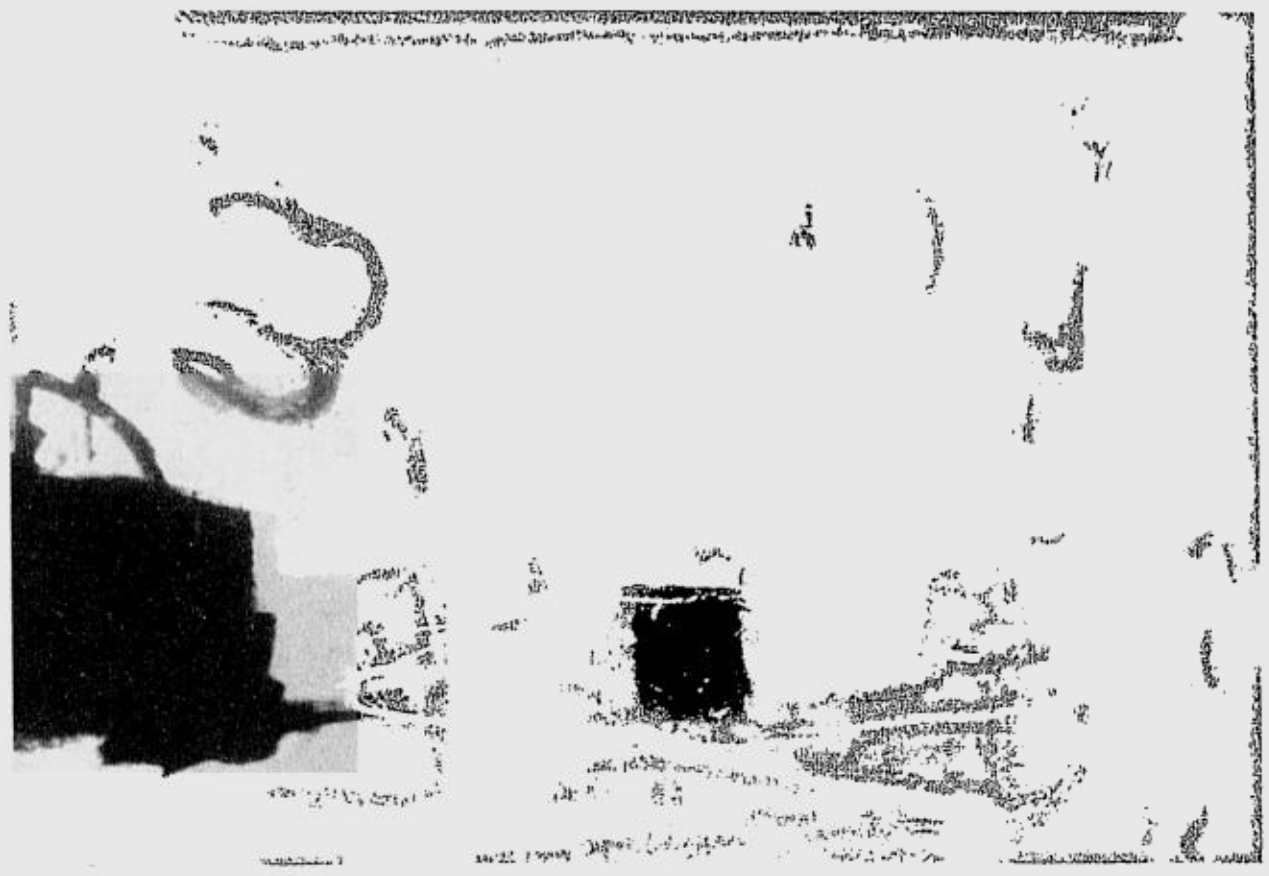
"Every time I have a show, I'm always thinking of color, experimenting with color," admits the artist. "You could say I'm a colorist."

But the fluctuations in his use of color, the tones and preferences of hues, he considers just part of the process in art-making, not necessarily reflective of a phase in his life. In other words, it is an exploratory process.

"I like the feeling that you don't know what you're doing," he continues. "In abstract art, *ginawa na lahat ng* styles, that's why it's with color that I'm experimenting."

He feels his technique hasn't changed much, though. "*Ganoon pa rin. Patong-patong ang* color, the same doodling. But the strokes are more expressive, *parang* toothbrush *ang ginamit.*"

"LBS07"



A graduate of Fine Arts, major in Painting, from Philippine Women's University, Lofranco started with photorealism in the early 1990s, painting leaves. By the late '90s, he was painting arcades.

Unhappy with what he had been doing, he fell into a two-year hiatus. When he returned to painting three years ago, he plunged into abstraction.

"I no longer like realism," says the artist. "For every color that you render, *dapat kagaya ng sa litrato, kailangan kontrolado ka.* With abstraction, *ikaw ang masusunod*, you do what you like, you feel liberated from the constraints of color and figure. *Ang saya-saya!* You're free to choose the form and color you want. *Ang sarap-sarap!*"

He reacts to the flatness of Color Field Painting, though. "*Nabibitin ako kung kulay lang. Parang kulang. Kailangan may* gesture, *may* signature *ng kamay*, the stamp of the artist's personality, his identity."

He counts among his favorite artists Rothko, the Spanish Stevan Vicente ("*Ang pula n'ya ibang klaseng pula*"), Barnett Newman, Joya ("*Lalo na* his early work"), Cy Twombly, the Post-Painterly Abstractionist Ellsworth Kelly.

But he also likes the representational art of Emmanuel Garibay, Alfredo Esquillo, Kiko Escora, Amorsolo (because of his coloration), Hidalgo (his impressionism).

"If ever I'll return to figurative, *siguro may halo nang* abstract," says Lofranco. "*Kung totoo ka sa sarili mo, totoo ang* work *mo, ikaw 'yon.* You're happy with your work. You're happy as you work."

Lofranco steps farther into the realm of chromatics and explores clashing hues

Madrid museum pays tribute to Fernando Zobel

From page E1

when he turned to abstraction.

In 1954, having left Manila for a residency at Rhode Island School of Design, he saw the exhibition "Recent Paintings by Mark Rothko" in Massachusetts, and was "bedazzled" by the American's color-field paintings. Zóbel found in the works a remarkable eloquence and luminance, something he had been looking for.

When he went to Spain the following year, he met artists also working in abstraction, but unlike his dismissal of Abstract Expressionism, he wrote, "I met Guillermo Delgado... [whose]... pictures, uncompromisingly abstract, show a process completely under control, completely 'worked out,' unlike the Abstract Expressionists."

He also met his distant cousin, artist Alfonso Ossorio (almost a decade older than him), and, through him, was introduced to Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner.

All these would affect Zóbel's development as a painter. He would leave figuration in favor of abstraction.

Back in the Philippines, Zóbel sought to synthesize his work. His 1956 Luz Gallery exhibit of abstract works showed the influences of Rothko, De Kooning and Pollock.

"Itálica" (1955), loaned from the Paulino Que collection, was one of his early works when he took up the challenge of abstraction. Angeles Villalba Salvador writes in (her doctoral thesis at the Complutense) "Fernando Zóbel: Vida y Obra" that "he destroyed most of the works produced in this period."

The Zóbel retrospective at Reina Sofia, however, does not begin with this. Instead it begins with an untitled work from 1956. This piece, together with the work titled "Espacio I" (1957), borrowed from Ateneo Art Gallery, and another untitled painting (1956) from the Mario Que collection, all reflect influences by Burri, Kline and Rothko.

From these pieces, Zóbel would embark on his "Saetas," a series that showed the direction of his painting. Saetas, according to both Madero and Soriano, is a sacred song in flamenco-style; it also means "dart." Madero prefers the latter explanation, Soriano the former.

Of the 11 works from this period, six are borrowed from Filipino collectors; two, both executed in 1959, are from Filipino collectors in Hong Kong. These are "Etorisa" and "Pájaro de Fuego." The other four come from Manila.

"Saeta," from 1956, owned by private collector Mario Que, is the earliest saeta in the retrospective. The rest are from 1957, "Saeta No. 42," "Saeta, No. 36," both loaned from Ateneo Art Gallery; and "Castilla XXII" from the CCP. They are characterized by overlaying of lines over fields of color.

"LA VISION" (1961), on loan from Lopez Museum

Zóbel wrote: "The theme is movement expressed metaphorically by the use of line. The movement of leaves, of trees, of people; movement observed, felt, never imitated but, I hope, translated."

These works lead up to "La Serie Negra," when Zóbel left color for black-and-white canvases. He created an abstraction perceived as gestural. In fact, the works are meditative. Using a syringe to create a straight line, much like a pen when sketching, he would use a sponge to create movement.

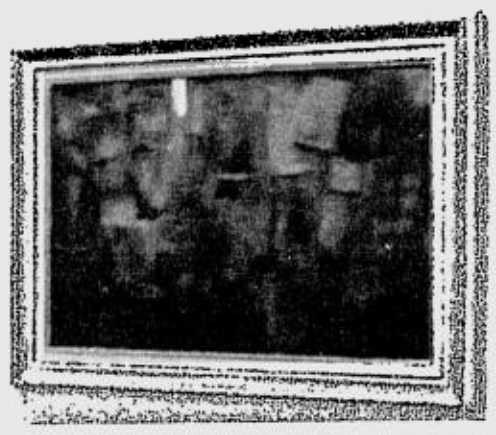
"Saetas" and "La Serie Negra" are the last of Zóbel's themes in which one can directly draw a line between his Western and Eastern influences. His canvases become the space where his knowledge of Japanese and Chinese calligraphy, the color-field works of Rothko and Kline's black-and-white abstractions are played out.

In 1961, Zóbel moved to Spain. Villalba Salvador quotes Zóbel in Manila in 1959:

"Spain, by contrast, is a blast of light. It completely fills the vacuum. [...] Even the delight of walking in the streets and hearing the sound of Spanish. The sound of home. Perhaps this is the important thing: this recognition of home. If one must lose oneself, this is where I want to be lost. Through all the ornaments, through the ease of English prose, I recognize myself in the last analysis as a Spaniard. And all the rest is just a tale."

Calligraphic gesture

In Spain he began "La Serie Negra," perhaps closest to Franz Kline's work in color and gesture. As Madero writes, "...his painting starts to incorporate the 'gesture,' not the informalist gesture [as in Art Informel] , but the calligraphic one."



"CASTILLA XXII" (1957), from the CCP Collection

"La Vision" (1961), loaned from Lopez Memorial Museum, is one of the first of "Serie Negra" that one sees upon leaving the colorful first room of the retrospective. It was also one of the works included in the 36th Venice Biennale as part of the Spanish Pavilion (together with the works of Vicente Vela, Rafael Canogar, Juan Genovés, Hernández Mompó, Guinovart).

In the second room, the works take on the calm and contemplative control that characterizes the works of Zóbel from this point onward. After the frenzied movement of the "Saetas," "La Serie Negra" crystallizes the elements of painting—of "... light and line, of movement. Pictures of a swift, improvised execution... " From there, he would move to "abstract lyricism."

The biggest of the seven rooms devoted to the exhibit shows a series tracing the movement of Zóbel's art from line and movement toward scale, perspective, scale, and, slowly, the return of color. "Serie Negra" ends by 1963 and the transformation is subtle, studied, meticulously considered.

I walk through the room slowly, never having experienced Zóbels of this sort in such concentration. I experience a different Zóbel. I walk on and witness his Júcar works, the movement of the river of Cuenca, gloriously concentrated in one room, the movement of the river perceptible in the greenish washes against linear perspectives.

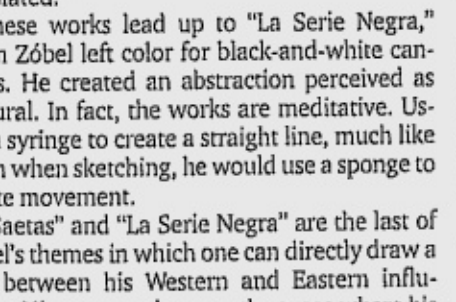
Later, the works called "Orillas" look at color and volume, visually losing the line-slash perspective. One of my favorites is a tiny piece called "Flauta IX" (1976), which seems to bring together the solid transparency of music. "Palacio de Cristal IV" (1984) is also a favorite, as it is one of the few works in which Zóbel seemed to have allowed the viewer a glimpse of the mechanisms of concentration and discipline that he held over each work.

It is also a pleasure to be privy to his notebooks, filled with drawings and writing, an artist who worked out each abstraction thoroughly.

I weave myself out of the Zóbel rooms, passing through a man's quiet, precise and intellectual scrutiny of the world and of himself.

Fernando Zóbel as an artist had created, in Madero's words, works that on the surface communicate spontaneity and intuitiveness, but are nevertheless "bereft" of such. Instead, each canvas was a "field of action with an ever-necessary, imposed balance and color, or black and white, is used with the same precision as a poet uses words."

The Zobel retrostpective travels, albeit with fewer works, to Museo de Arte Abtracto Español in Cuenca, and then to Sevilla.



VINTRINES containing notebook of Zobel

Baldemor at Y, Soler at Finale

GALERIE Y features Manuel Baldemor's "Momentum" on Oct. 14-27 at Art Center, 4/L bridgeway, Megamall A. The artist presents a varied collage of artworks spanning decade-long images of his sojourns in Central Europe.

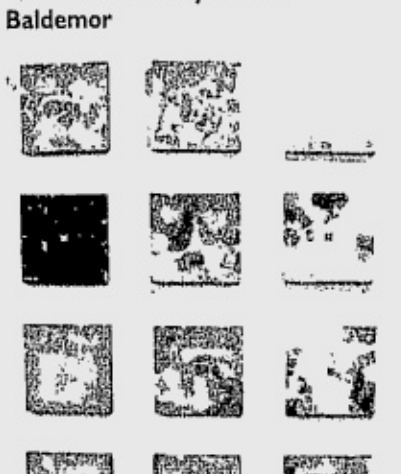
FINALE Art Gallery showcases Soler's "Recent Works" on Oct. 21-Nov. 6 at Artwalk, 4/L, Megamall A. The works are the latest chapter in the artist's continuing "Rock Garden" series.

"RHINELAND" by Manuel Baldemor

VISUAL ARTS

CRUCIBLE Gallery mounts Francisco Pellicer Viri's "The Reality of Abstraction" at Artwalk, 4/L, Megamall A, on Oct. 14-26. The series of watercolors were inspired by the gardens-as-sculpture of Jerusalino Araos.

GERONIMO Berenguer de los Reyes Jr. Museum presents rare antiquarian 19th- and 20th-century photographs of Old Manila and historical events and personalities during the Spanish, Japanese and American periods in the Philippines. Paintings, prints and scale models of airplanes and spacecrafts are also featured in the World Aviation History exhibit. The museum is in Gateway Business Park in Gen Trias, Cavite.



"STONE Garden Series" by Soler Santos

THE PHILIPPINE Association of Printmakers recently concluded its 2003 outreach program in bringing printmaking to as many Filipinos in 10 destinations in the country. The workshop covered the basic forms of collagraph to etching and serigraph. As a result of the successful traveling workshops, a printmaking tilt will be held in December at Cultural Center of the Philippines. Photo shows PAP president Raul Isidro (in white cap and dark shirt) with participants in the Surigao workshop. Call 6456780.

ANTON Balao

BIN Samonte

Miniature art for a cause

EIGHT of today's fast-rising young artists offer their own unique perspectives on issues commonly tackled in off-the-shoulder reportage through miniature paintings in "Eight," an art-for-a-cause project.

Part of the proceeds will go to the University of Sto. Tomas Journalism Society, the association of students of Southeast Asia's oldest journalism school. The group promotes press ethics, civic journalism, migration journalism, and the Catholic press.

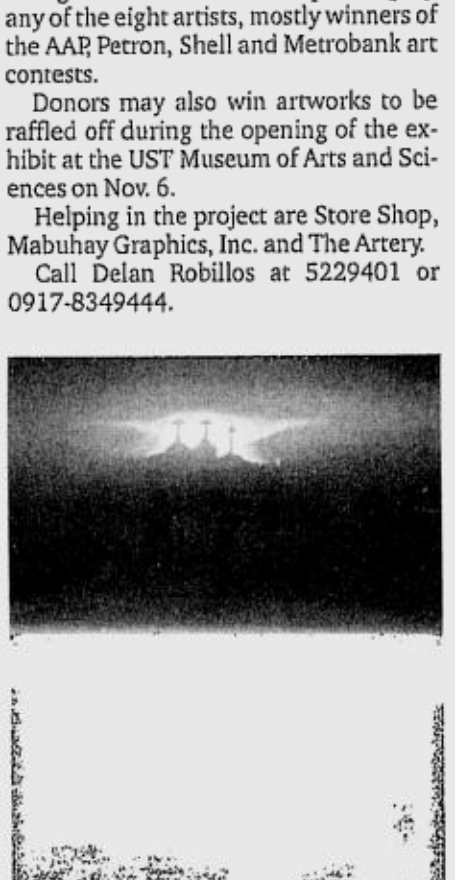
For every P800 contribution, donors will get a token miniature painting by any of the eight artists, mostly winners of the AAP, Petron, Shell and Metrobank art contests.

Donors may also win artworks to be raffled off during the opening of the exhibit at the UST Museum of Arts and Sciences on Nov. 6.

Helping in the project are Store Shop, Mabuhay Graphics, Inc. and The Artery.

Call Delan Robillos at 5229401 or 0917-8349444.

ELIOS Santos



JEF Samonte

Capturing the fugitive light

By Constantino C. Tejero

"TO TRULY notice the beauty of life" is how photographer Denise Weldon describes her art. "To recognize things that are beautiful the way they are, at that very moment..."

In the process of capturing these transitory moments, the photographer also captures the flitting light and shadows of her immediate surroundings. Thus, strong chiaroscuro and impressionistic blur characterize her images.

Texture she really loves, as in one of her favorite photographers, Sebastião Salgado. She adds textural element by producing the images digitally on watercolor paper.

"I like the way the paper and my point of view marry together," she explains.

Other favorites include Ansel Adams, Annie Leibovitz, Imogen Cunningham, Chris Reinier.

Weldon took up Studio Art, major in Photography, at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. She has traveled and lived in Southeast Asia for 34 years.

This American artist is a welcome addition to the Philippine art scene. She has been a resident of the country for seven years, having married a Filipino architect.

The surprising beauty of her art can be seen in the 14 black-and-white large-scale photographs of still lifes, architectural details and human figures in Giclee print displayed in her fourth solo exhibit "Photographs," until Oct. 17 in Galleria Duemila at the Artwalk, 4/L, Bldg. A, SM Megamall.

"I love black-and-white, in the sense that there's no distraction," Weldon says. "The soul can come out more. Nothing's wrong with color. I use it for my commercial work. But there's something about black-and-white that's different. There's a deeper sense about it."

In her images, the familiar looks unfamiliar, the figurative becomes abstract, enhanced by the transformative power of art.

The piece "Pregnant Woman," for example, is just a nude profile of a distended belly and a breast, but looks like a contour of something else because of the cropping. The curve of the body is underlined or paralleled by the straight line of the arm, and the while light emanating from behind makes the image look somewhat surreal.

"TWISTED Figure"

"STANDING Figure on Rocks"

"Standing Figure on Rocks" plays on textures, specifically the smooth and the rough. The arresting composition is of a black and glossy naked male form against a white sky, cleaved by the right angle of a craggy rock formation.

Impressionism verges on abstraction in "Glass Bowl/Louvre," in the out-of-focus "Gauze Woman," in the white blur of diaphanous fabric in "Twisted Figure," in the lovely off-center pattern of "Lotus Pad."

These are images one would describe as "painterly." In fact, two of Weldon's favorite artists are Monet and Rembrandt.

Chiaroscuro is fully exploited in "Shadow Steps/Louvre," with its solid contrast of the verticals and the horizontals of light and shade, in the steps, sunbeam and human bodies.

"Hand in Linen" is also characterized by this strong contrast, of the foreground of white fabric and the background of black void.

In "Man in Linen," showing a black face half-hidden in a white shroud, the visual composition is architectonic, it could have been a minaret partially covered by a dune.

"Candles in St. Germain," showing five white votive candles against the rough surface of a black wall, is very Rembrandt.

All these images speak of solitude, born as they are in moments of tranquility—the only time when the artist can contemplate the beautiful and truly appreciate the beauty of the world.

"SHADOW Steps/Louvre"

"CANDLES in St. Germain"

"MALE in Water"

Oronos' women of grace and strength

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

THE FIGURES of his first solo show are all women—Filipino women captured in their traditional and most revered roles as mothers, spouses, entrepreneurs who must make a living to support their brood.

In the artist's tableaux of characters, they are predominantly ambulant vendors with their merchandise of fish, flowers and other products.

As such, they represent the distaff side of Everyman, their faces shorn of discernible features, their bodies at once strong, nubile and delicate, their stances and gestures fluid and dynamic. It is their dresses—multi-hued, free-flowing, diaphanous *kamisa't saya*—that enhance the suppleness of their figures.

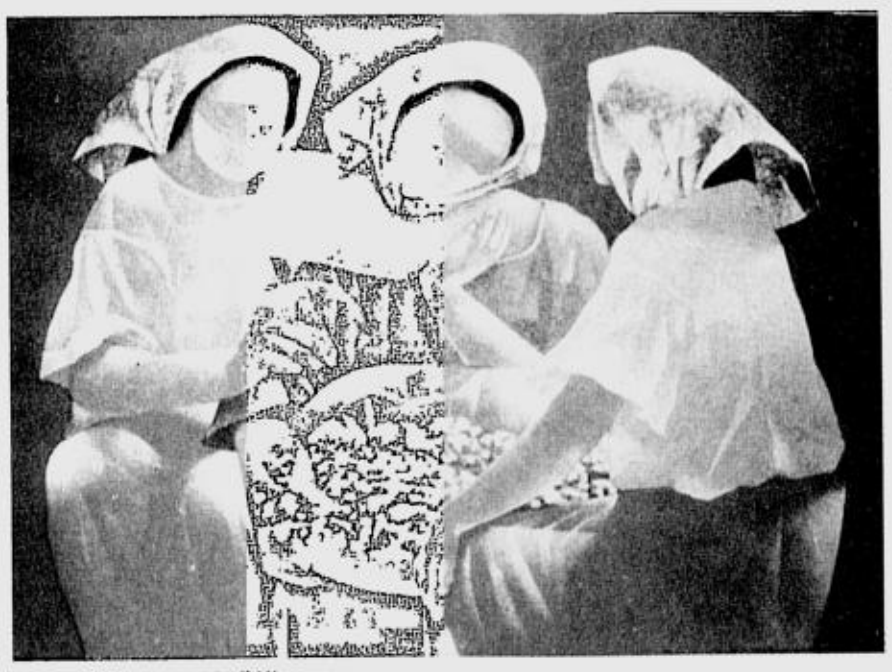
Ed Otis Oronos has been painting women after he graduated from Fine Arts (Philippine Women's University), when he was still gainfully employed (he is now retired), and doing odd jobs to support his mother who fell ill and needed protracted medical treatment.

Jack of different trades

He has been, at various times, a real-estate agent, a Central Bank employee and interior designer. For this last job, he had to enroll at Philippine School of Interior Design.

In the beginning, the women of Oronos had well-delineated faces, but, in time, they began to lose their features, as the artist shifted his focus to his subjects' expressive mien, evident in their characteristic gaze, with their necks bent sideward, as in a huddle, trying to reach out, or consoling a friend.

Only recently did the artist come to realize that the best way to dramatize the essence of female power was by showing their strength of character, their grace and aplomb, and not by highlighting what was on the face.



"THREE Women HF# 1"

"MOTHER and Child 2"

"THREE Women HF#8"

All the works on exhibit, subsumed by the title "Stylized Expressions," (Genesis Gallery, until Oct. 20), reinforce the recurring thematic concern in Oronos' chosen genre of Filipino women. Executed in mixed media, combining oil, oil pastel and acrylic, the pieces radiate a more subtle fidelity to reality.

Oronos' color palette aptly imbues his subjects with a reverential character that is more spiritual and heroic than what could be transmuted by the simple display of indigenous and exotic physical beauty.

Variations on a theme

Though Oronos could have worked at expanding his chosen milieu (the 27 pieces are variations on the same theme), he has instead made a number of innovations on his subject.

While the flower vendor emerges as the dominant image, it is in his "Mother and Child" that his approach comes off most tellingly. In these pieces, the subject's personal warmth and intimacy are best conveyed, through the tender gestures and the spirit of bonding.

But it is in Oronos' stylized treatment of women as vendors that his work finally acquires a sense of organic unity. The image conveyed recalls what Virginia Woolf once said: "Pictures don't change. People change."

Indeed, Oronos does not need to update his images of women save for the fact that women have finally emerged as man's co-equal in every facet of life—and art.

With this homiage to female power, Ed Otis Oronos has succeeded in showing what this showcase of matriarchal society—dominated by a woman president no less—can do, as he mixes his media, colors and views on the one subject of his art. It is a subject that will continue to fascinate all of humanity, and most especially artists.

E-mail the author at gdormiendo@yahoo.com

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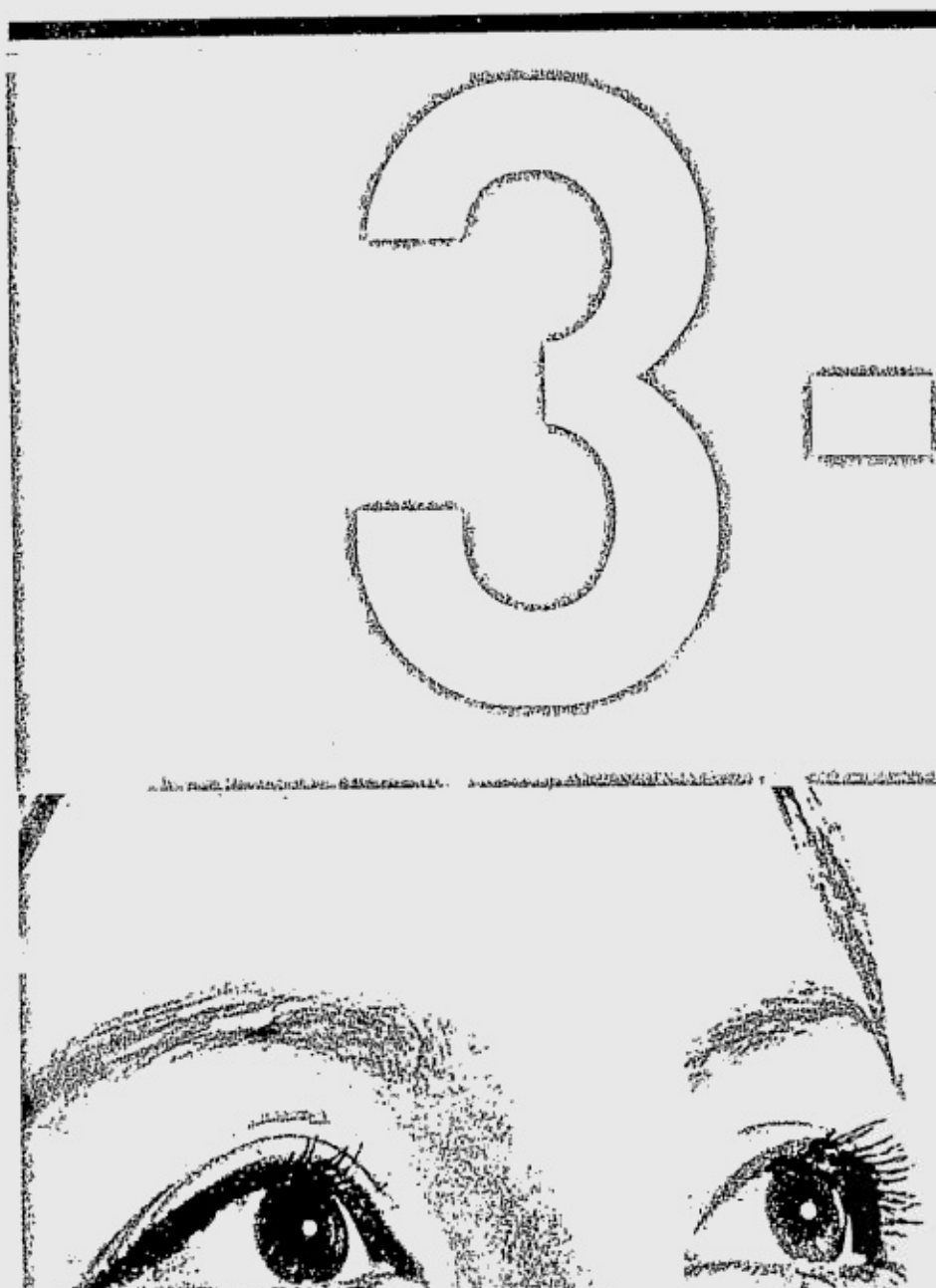

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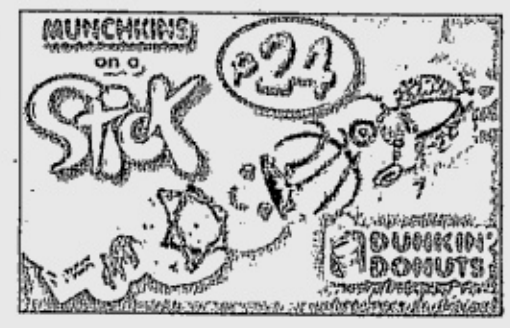

What's with a *kiss?*

JENNY Jamora as Callie and Missy Maramara as Tara in "Stop! Kiss"

By Cora Llamas
Contributor

New Voice Company's 'Stop! Kiss' makes the audience reexamine its own level of tolerance of diversity and deviant behavior

TARA and Callie are two lovely, bright, energetic girls who also happen to be sexually straight as an arrow.

They've had boyfriends before and are not that innocent to sex. They click instantly on their first meeting, finding that they share common interests and experiences. Not surprisingly, they become very good friends. People wouldn't have taken a second look at their displays of affection, regarding them as normal between two lady best friends.

Until one moment, they kiss, and in the aftermath, one of the ladies gets beaten up by a guy who was shocked upon seeing the encounter.

Whom will the audience side with? The male gay basher? Or the girls?

The element of violence alone makes it sound like a no-brainer. But director Monique Wilson says of "Stop! Kiss," Diana Son's play presented by her New Voice Company: "It is an examination of perspective. It makes the viewer examine his own level of acceptance and own level of morality."

To play on the paradigm of perception, Wilson sets the stage literally in the center surrounded by the audience in the Republic of Malate. Instead of the traditional proscenium, the staging is aligned in such a way that the audience may feel that they are looking at different sides of one event.

At the same time, the actors—especially leads Missy Maramara and Jenny Jamora—leave the comfort of the invisible fourth wall to participate in a blocking that may just make them feel totally open to everybody's scrutiny.

Author Son herself played on the whole theme of perspective by swinging the different scenes in the play to different time periods: past, present and future ending. There is no linear structure and straightforward retelling of the beginning to the end.

"We do not see the kiss until the end," Wilson points out. "What we do see at the beginning is the violence. One of the girls has been beaten up and a detective (Rito Asilo) is investigating."

From his investigation, the pieces of the puzzle begin to form, and the audience is led down a path that questions time-tested beliefs and opinions.

"The detective himself is not sympathetic at the start. His prejudices come out during the investigation. He believes the girl must have done something to provoke this kind of response from the guy who beat her up.

"Society sometimes begins to sympathize only if they see it affecting them. Not all members of the gay community go out to lobby for gay rights, not until they feel the brunt of the discrimination themselves.

"In the Philippines, we may be more politically correct and gender-sensitive than others, but sometimes all that just remain as labels. We can be careful in what we say or how we address this particular person who may be different from us. But when the [diversity] touches our relationships and the things and people that are close to us, [we react differently.]"

Champion

Wilson has long been a champion of women's rights and gender sensitivity, with many NVC productions bearing a message for acceptance, respect and tolerance.

Her participation in women's groups, especially since the start of the run of the ongoing "The Vagina Monologues," has made her aware of women who have suffered discrimination, spouse abuse or homophobia.

The lady herself has not been exempt from it. "Discrimination can happen anywhere."

In one particular play, while helping usher in the audience, she heard two girls laughing loudly and rudely during the performance. Following stage etiquette, she politely asked them to close their phones and leave the auditorium if they could not contain themselves. The girls obeyed, but a relative who happened to be a VIP heard about it and accosted Wilson at the lobby.

"He practically screamed at me, 'Do you

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MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You are intense, focused and goal-directed, and you know what you want. At all times, you are professional. You are a clear communicator: You say what you mean, and you mean what you say. You have enormous drive and dedication to work for what you want. This year holds exciting beginnings and fresh starts for you.
Birthdate of: Kelly Preston, actress; Margaret Thatcher, British prime minister; Marie Osmond, entertainer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be patient talking with partners and close friends today. If you stay alert, you'll discover you can learn a lot about yourself by listening to people.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Start this week off by making an extra effort to get better organized at home and at work. If you reduce your clutter, you will feel pleased with yourself.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Make a promise to yourself to enjoy some entertaining activities this week. Extend invitations to others. See movies, sports events, theater—whatever.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Conversations with family members (possibly a parent) are significant today. Be patient. Harmony within the family promotes happiness, health and a longer life.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Conversations with siblings are a strong focus today. Short trips and discussions with colleagues keep you active. Make a list of what you want to do.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Think about how you can best use your possessions to your advantage. If you aren't using something, recycle it or pass it on to someone who can use it.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You have a strong desire to communicate to others now. Both the Sun and Mercury are in your sign. Therefore, this is a good time to state your views and present your case to anyone.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): With Venus in your sign now, you feel social. Nevertheless, you still need time to be by yourself and to rest more than usual. Try to balance both these needs.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Increased social activities keep you busy now. Start this week out with plans to meet others so that you can organize your time more effectively. All group activities are meaningful now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Since you have been singled out for increased responsibilities, look your best at all times. Do not doubt that you can do the job—you can.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Everything having to do with higher education, publishing, the law and travel are a strong focus for you now. Figure out what you want to accomplish this week.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Plan to attack red-tape details related to insurance, wills, inheritances, debt, shared property and joint resources and responsibilities. You can accomplish a lot if you set your mind to it.

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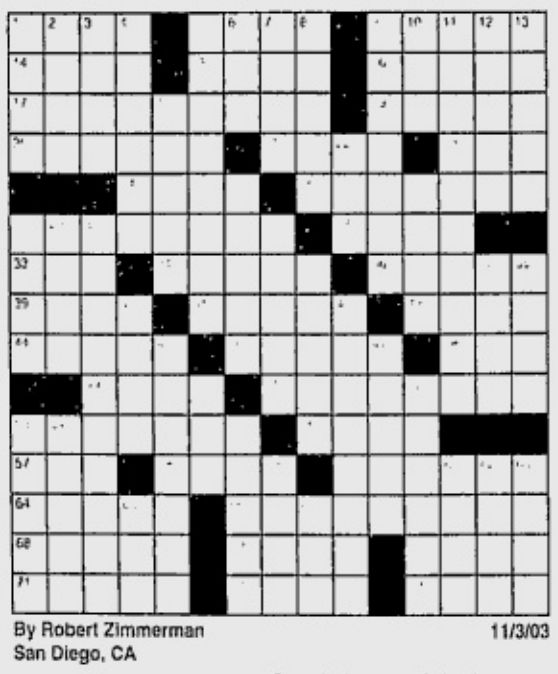
1 Renowned Babe
5 Military cap
9 Coffeehouses
14 Out of the wind
15 Sacred sign-off
16 Hertz rival
17 April mailing
19 Person from Big D
20 Cleopatra's Mark
21 Writes
23 Russ. jetfighter
24 Scrimmage anchors
26 Rescinds formally
28 Courthouse filings
32 Fine powder
33 Tanguay of vaudeville
34 Just right
36 Exuberant cry
39 Waiting-room call
41 Genders
43 1492 ship
44 Clothe
46 OK
48 Oddball
49 Info
51 Like John Doe?
53 La Scala voice
56 Tiny pests
57 Physicians' soc.
58 Chew
60 Country
64 Expire
66 Coltrane's instrument
68 Possessive pronoun
69 Pastoral poem
70 Not for
71 Whoppers
72 Dimensions
73 Heavyweight Spinks

DOWN
1 Pro follower
2 _-Ude, Russia
3 Written part
4 Protagonists
5 Garden serenaders
6 Cassowary's cousin
7 Criminal, to a cop
8 Outer opposite
9 Dupe
10 Pub serving
11 Mailbox, of sorts
12 Cyber messages
13 Tunes
18 Boredom
22 Seine
25 Take the helm
27 Zest
28 Give temporarily
29 Assert positively
30 Kitchen roll
31 Part of WASP
35 On the up and up
37 Burden
38 Diet for dobbin
40 Russian ruler
42 FSU player
45 Broadway producers
47 Brief summation
50 Beattie or Blyth
52 Fatal
53 Like sailor's stories
54 City on the Missouri
55 Desert haven
59 Dry ravine in Africa
61 Bulwer-Lytton heroine
62 Fully aware of
63 Nuremberg negative
65 Iniquity
67 End of ABCs



By Robert Zimmerman
San Diego, CA
11/3/03

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

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11/3/03

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Tackling homophobia on stage

By Monique Wilson
Contributor

HOMOSEXUALITY has been tackled in theater in the Philippines in numerous productions over the years. In our New Voice Company alone, in the plays "Angels In America" (1995, by Tony Kushner), "My Sister In This House" (1998, by Wendy Kesselman), and "Falsettos" (2002, by William Finn and James Lapine), issues of family love, AIDS, gay relationships and acceptance, among other topics, were talked about openly and without barriers. This hopefully precipitated discourse, debate and understanding about sensitive issues much of society would rather not bring out into the open.

Fewer plays talk about homophobia, gay bashing or violence toward gay people. In our latest play, "Stop Kiss," a drama/comedy by Diana Son, the issues of discrimination and hate crimes committed toward gay men and women are examined.

The story of "Stop Kiss" revolves around two young women who meet, talk about their boyfriends, feel a growing, unexpected and unspoken attraction to each other, and finally kiss.

It is a story about how that one innocent kiss, sets off a savage gay-bashing as the two women are violently beaten up. The tragic consequences of their kiss—the center of this powerful drama—is a reflection of how ignorance and fear are deeply rooted in violence and hatred, and a study of the perils of embracing one's identity in an atmosphere of discrimination still dangerously prevalent in many cultures and societies.

Uncovering the play has been a challenge. To be able to contextualize it to the reality of homophobia and gay-bashing in the Philippines, we relied on valuable materials by one of our V-Day partner groups, WomenLead, a legal resource institution committed to advancing women's rights.

The materials they gathered and shared with us on the situation of Filipina lesbians and the discrimination they go through provided valuable insight for the cast from which to start.

As a result, the cast collectively developed a strong sense of bravery and a deep understanding of the issues not often seen in Philippine theater. Along with the craftsmanship of the writing and the deeply appealing story, the sensitivity and honesty of the actors provide the play's most moving and powerful aspects.

MONIQUE Wilson

The result is also a play that delves into the unspoken layers of our deepest longings, articulating our fears and yet also moving our hearts and minds to the meaning of love and life—no matter how different it may be.

October 17, 18 , 24 & 25 at 8 pm
October 18 & 25 at 3:30 pm
Republic of Malate Theatre
1769 A. Mabini St., Malate
with: Rito Asilo, Rabbi Gannaban, Jenny Jamora, Missy Maramara, Tami Monsod, Jamie Wilson

Tickets

What's with a kiss?

From page F1

know who those girls are? Who their parents are?' I told him, 'I have to protect my actors and my audience from their noise.' Then, in front of the waiters, he screamed again, '*Ang tapang tapang mo*! You must be a lesbian!'

"I was shocked for a moment. This was an educated affluent man resorting to name-calling while in a lobby of an auditorium. I had to go up to higher ground."

With all the dignity she could muster, Wilson shot back, "Is that how you think of all brave women: lesbians? Would you resort to name-calling now?"

"Discrimination can happen to anybody," she repeats, shaking her head at the memory.

Stalwart

Jamora, who plays Callie, is an NVC stalwart, starting her budding theater career in the company as a workshopper, then rising up the theatrical ranks to supporting role ("Falsettos") and to current main performer status. She recently took up acting classes at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts.

Playing Tara is Maramara, a Theater Arts graduate who has been making her mark slowly but steadily in productions at the Tanghalang Ateneo, Dulaang UP and Tanghalang Pilipino.

Supporting these two ingenues are the regular core of NVC veterans like Jamie Wilson, Tami Monsod and Rito Asilo.

Wilson isn't appearing on stage on this one. The parts of Callie and Lara are fairly young and "I have no denials about my age," she says, laughing. "I know what I play and I can't play. Nor can I assume that people will want to watch me all the time."

She also points out that it may be high time to give way to "our future artists. We have to trust [new] people to take on these roles and deliver. We also shouldn't underestimate the audience and their reaction to [non-conventional] casting."

Looks like the play is living up to its spirit, as no discrimination takes place behind the scenes, too.

"Stop! Kiss" opens at the Republic of Malate on Oct. 14. Call 8990630 and 8965497.

JAMIE Wilson

TAMI Monsod

RITO Asilo

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Call for entries to campus investigative journalism award

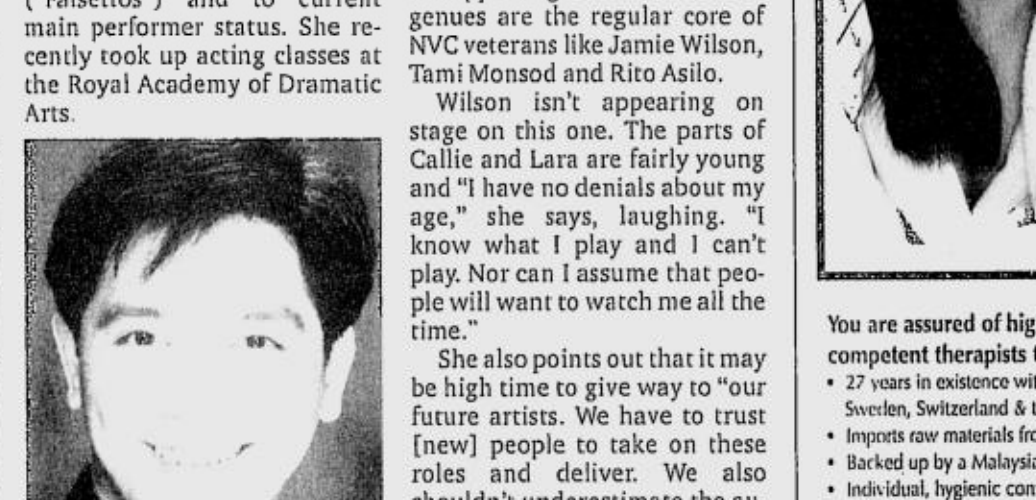
THE VARSITARIAN, the 75-year-old official student publication of the University of Santo Tomas, is accepting entries to the 3rd National Campus Investigative Journalism Award (NCIJA). Deadline is Oct. 20.

The award is endowed by Julio S. Macaranas Jr., a Washington-based legal editor and former editor in chief of the Varsitarian, in honor of his late mother Mercedes S, Macaranas.

All college student organs can join. The investigative report should have been published between October 2002 and September this year. The winning report will receive P30,000. The student organ will receive P20,000.

The NCIJA is one of the highlights of Inkblots 2003: The Fifth National Campus Journalism Fellowship on Oct. 23 to 25 at the UST Beato Angelico Building.

For more information about the contest and the Inkblots campus press workshop, visit the Varsitarian office at Rm 112, UST Main Building, or call 7313101 local 8235 and look for Billy Joe I. Allardo.(0916-4504131) or John Ferdinand T. Buen (0918-9380502). Also send queries to varsitar@yahoo.com.



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- Affordable monthly amortizations
- Longer payment terms

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CHINABANK
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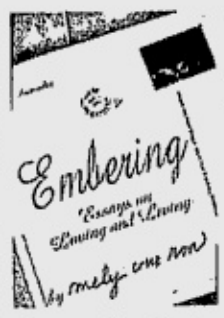
Inspirational book launched

MELY Cruz-Roa launched the inspirational book titled "Embering: Essays on Loving and Living."

Fr. Pol Juacian, SVD celebrated Mass and blessed the books. Mely is a retired professor from UST and the Southeast Asian Interdisciplinary Institute who only started to write for newspapers and magazines when her husband died in 1994. She later became a movie reviewer with CBCP's Cinema and a member of the Handmaid of the Lord.

CAPT. Joy Roa, Ms Eggie Apostol who was the catalyst for the book's creation, the author Mely Cruz Roa, Tom Roa, Sr. Nieves Cueto, SPC and Dr. Alan Roa

Embering means "the slowly cooling of emotions, memories, ideas or responses still capable of being enlivened." It is a compilation of her insights and musings on loving and living. She gives hope to others with Chapter 5 on "Widowhood" and Chapter 6 on "Surviving a Stroke."



But "Embering," according to the author and some friends, like the end of the year—September, November and December—could very well be the end months of a lifetime. It means emptying one's self mentally, emotionally and physically. The book brings joy and tears, hope and peace to everyday loving and living.

Call 4364062.

TRACK I participants immersing themselves in the garbage of the city as part of a group activity on "the disintegration of creation." The participants turned their *basura* into recycled decorative products, thus discovering that "*basura, maganda ka pala!*"

Marie-France GOES Online

Marie-France celebrates its 18th year of slimming success.

Enter Marie-France's website and "uncover your curves"!

What kind of body do you have? Want to know more about the "Marie-France System"? What are Marie-France's non-invasive, non-strenuous slimming treatments and how will they benefit you? Is there a Marie-France center near you? Just point and click at www.mariefran[illegible]om.ph and you'll have your answers in no time!

In time for its [illegible]th anniversary in the country, Marie-France recently launched its Philippine website for the modern woman who's interested in slimming down effectively and effortlessly. This user-friendly website also highlights inspiring stories of women who have successfully slimmed down and became Marie-France's Bodies of Evidence, tips on how to shape up and stay slim, Frequently Asked Questions on your weight-loss concerns, and interesting articles from various publications on the center's exceptional slimming programme and services. Plus, you can check out the latest promos at the center and even view Marie-France's first television commercial by downloading it from the website!

Surf the net now and see what Marie-France has to offer for your slimming needs. You can also contact Marie-France at the following numbers and centers: 8161262 (Makati), 6871216 (Ortigas), 3726635 (Timog), 2422199 (Binondo), 8099619 (Alabang), 5345898 (Shaw), 9208021 (Congressional), 9612981 (Pampanga) and 2337637 (Cebu).

EDUCATION REVOLUTION

Private school teachers join popular uprising

By Chinit Rufino
Contributor

Iloilo City becomes the nucleus of the Education Revolution in the Visayas

THE EXCITEMENT was palpable. It was evident in the heightened level of the "academic noise" of the group discussions as enthusiastic participants drew up and organized action plans for sharing Formation Tracks in "Making the Difference through an Education for Social Transformation."

Challenged by the question, "What's Next?", 102 graduates who completed the three-year Formation Tracks Sept. 23-26 in Assumption Gen. Luna, Iloilo felt they were ready to pay it forward and pass on their learning to their public school counterparts.

After participating in the Twinning Program of the Marie Eugenie Institute which gave them the formation program, the school communities presented their plans as part of the graduation rites.

Assumption Passi, Iloilo was already working with Quinagalingan Elementary School in Passi with 344 students and 17 faculty members. The school's outreach projects brought its people "into the deep" to walk with other teachers to share their own growth through the Formation Program.

Sta. Rita Academy in Sibalom, Antique would partner with the Sido Elementary School in Barangays Sido and San Juan with 329 students.

Mentoring the mentors

St. Anthony's College (SAC) in San Jose, Antique would offer the faculty of its Department of Education the Mentoring the Mentors Program of the Foundation for Worldwide People Power, a partner of the Marie Eugenie Institute.

St. Vincent's Academy in Kauswagan and Xavier de Kibangay in Mindanao would collaborate in running formation tracks for their teachers, inviting teachers from two public schools nearby to join the sessions.

Assumption Gen. Luna, Iloilo City is working with several public schools such as Sto. Domingo Elementary School, a school in Arevalo, Iloilo City, and the Sapao Elementary School in Dumangas, Iloilo.

Common goals

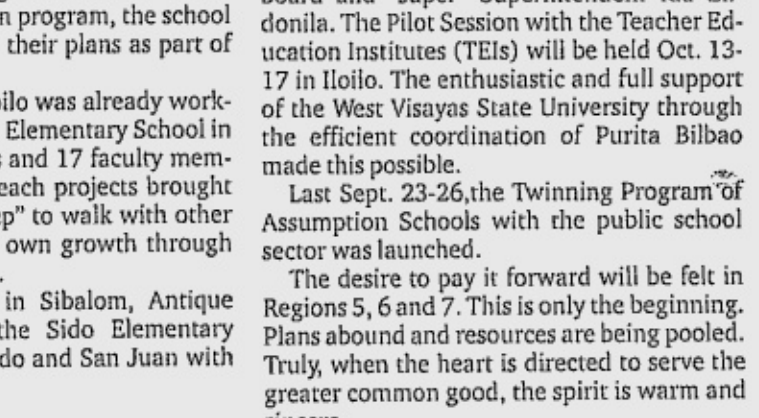
The Marie Eugenie Institute signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Foundation for Worldwide People Power on Sept. 2. Since both Foundations dream of making a difference through education for social transformation, the new partnership will harness the experience of the institute from 10 years of teacher formation programs and the foundation's in networking and coordinating with other organizations.

The ripple effect has only just begun. Iloilo City has become the nucleus of the Education Revolution in the Visayas. The Mentoring the Mentors Program has conducted sessions for 65 principals and 65 master teachers of the city schools division under the local school board and "super" Superintendent Ida Endonila. The Pilot Session with the Teacher Education Institutes (TEIs) will be held Oct. 13-17 in Iloilo. The enthusiastic and full support of the West Visayas State University through the efficient coordination of Purita Bilbao made this possible.

Last Sept. 23-26, the Twinning Program of Assumption Schools with the public school sector was launched.

The desire to pay it forward will be felt in Regions 5, 6 and 7. This is only the beginning. Plans abound and resources are being pooled. Truly, when the heart is directed to serve the greater common good, the spirit is warm and sincere.

We all went home knowing that something inside our hearts had moved on. We all agreed that to work for education for social transformation meant that education was an "ongoing process of allowing the good in everyone to break through whatever imprisons it... so that it may shine in all its radiance...," as Marie Eugenie, founder of the Religious of the Assumption, said.



GROUP report on the environmental scanning workshop. Participants to the Track 3 Formation Program for Visayas-Mindanao teachers of Assumption Schools carefully studied the stark realities of life in Iloilo City.

Rosary Congress today at Crame

THE WORLD Apostolate of Fatima (Blue Army of Our Lady) will hold today the National Rosary Congress at the Philippine National Police (PNP) Multipurpose Auditorium in Camp Crame.

The congress, which commemorates the "great miracle of the sun in Fatima" on Oct. 13, 1917, is also organized by the PNP Ladies, Couples for Christ, Ligaya ng Panginoon, Center for Peace and the Marian Solidarity Movement.

According to chairpersons Rosario Melchor and Alma Ebdane, the congress will feature Msgr. Hernando Coronel, Ambassador Howard Dee, Admiral Tagumpay Jardiniano, Dr. Jo Salvana and June Keithley as speakers.

The congress will open at 8 a.m. and culminate in a procession and Mass, 3 p.m. at the PNP chapel led by Bishop Ramon Arguelles. PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane will crown the image and Defense Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Elvira Ermita will lead the recitation of the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

FEU holds 'Drama for Peace'

THE FAR Eastern University through its President's Committee on Culture will hold the theater workshop "Drama for Peace and Development" for the FEU Theater Guild on Oct. 13-17 at the FEU Auditorium.

Resource persons are Pete Lacaba (playwriting); actor-director Prof. Segundo Dizon (acting); Soxy Tapacio of PETA and Tanghalang Pilipino (directing); and Tony Espejo of Bulwagang Gantimpala (stagecraft). Executive director Maria Fina C. Yonzon of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and FEU president Dr. Lydia B. Echauz will give remarks. Dely Magpayo and the Mabuhay Singers perform. Call 7364897.

Committed to Service Excellence and Customer Satisfaction

Mensahe

I EXTEND my heartfelt greetings and felicitations to the management and employees of Nissan North Edsa on the occasion of your 10th anniversary.

On behalf of the Quezon City government, I join your prestigious company as you celebrate this significant event. Your continued business in Quezon City is a clear manifestation of your confidence in our vision of an ideal community and a model of effective governance. The city government needs partners like you to improve the quality of life of our citizens.

With the cooperation and support of automobile firms like yours, I am certain that our mutual goal to develop Quezon City into a peaceful, progressive and prosperous community will become a reality.

May you have a meaningful celebration.

Mabuhay kayong lahat.

FELICIANO R. BELMONTE, JR.
Mayor
Quezon City

NISSAN Motors Philippines, Inc. (NMPI) is one with Nissan North EDSA as they celebrate their 10th year of operations as a Nissan dealer. To Nissan North EDSA we extend our warmest congratulations and commitment of continuous support.

The successful partnership between Nissan Motor Philippines and Nissan North EDSA started 10 years ago and continues to prosper to this day. A great part of this success comes from the hard work, dedication and professionalism.

These qualities have led it to achieve an enviable track of record of being NMPI's Dealer of the Year three times in 10 years and hit consistently high marks in terms of Customer Satisfaction.

We again congratulate Nissan North EDSA on this momentous occasion. Their efforts to promote the Nissan brand, along with it the Cefiro, Sentra, Serena, Verita and X-Trail will bring them to greater heights and a better future!

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Leman Lee
President and Chief Executive Officer
Nissan Motor Philippines, Inc.

UNIVERSAL Motors Corporation (UMC) extends its heartfelt congratulations to Nissan North Edsa on the occasion of its 10th year of operations in the automotive industry.

Nissan North Edsa has been a major partner of UMC in serving the requirements of residents of the northern district of Metro Manila for our company's line-up of Nissan light commercial vehicles. As one of the primary Nissan dealerships in the country, NNE has maintained a high level of professional service to our Nissan clients, thereby attaining an admirable track record of consistently high customer satisfaction rating through the years.

We commend the management and staff of NNE for their successful efforts in promoting the Nissan brand and strengthening customer loyalty to the Nissan Frontier, Patrol and Urvan models. May this milestone serve to inspire you further to greater success.

ELIZABETH H. LEE
Senior Vice President
Universal Motors Corporation

IT IS with great pleasure that I extend my congratulations to Nissan North Edsa Balintawak for 10 successful years in the automotive industry.

The last decade has been filled with numerous challenges, some internal and some external. But these challenges has allowed us to move forward, they have allowed us to deliver the most number of cars, with the highest quality of customer satisfaction.

Let us continue to move forward together, as one team, as one family. Keep in mind: Together we move forward, Alone we go nowhere. Let this be the creed we live for the many years to come.

Thank you and again, congratulations.

(*Sgd*)MIGUEL G. COYIUTO
President and General Manager
Nissan North Edsa

NISSAN NORTH EDSA

Moving forward together at 10

ON March 26,1993, a group of reputable businessmen and professionals established a car dealership called Motor & Carriage Inc. under the business name of Nissan North Edsa Balintawak. Since that time, the company's focus has always been to provide Total Customer Satisfaction via the presence of modern, top of the line service facilities/equipment, highly trained personnel and effective organizational structure.

Located on a 10,533 square-meter lot area at Balintawak, Quezon City, fronting the Cloverleaf Market, Nissan North Edsa Balintawak boasts of having one of the most vast showrooms around. Upon entering, the customer is met by an 800 square-meter showroom, allowing full view of the complete line of passenger cars of Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. as well as light commercial vehicles from Universal Motors Corp. At the back of the house lies NNE's service area where vehicles are handled by trained personnel using the latest equipment to ensure efficient, if not excellent service.

Undoubtedly the vital ingredient of success is the support and leadership provided by the management. Constantly stressing that Genuine Customer Care is what makes the dealership different from others, Management has maneuvered the company to greater heights with its sound decisions, innovations and creativity.

As what Vincent S. Licup, NNE's vice president for operations instilled in all of his Team members—"Together we move forward. Alone we go nowhere"—the future could only be better for Nissan North Edsa Balintawak.

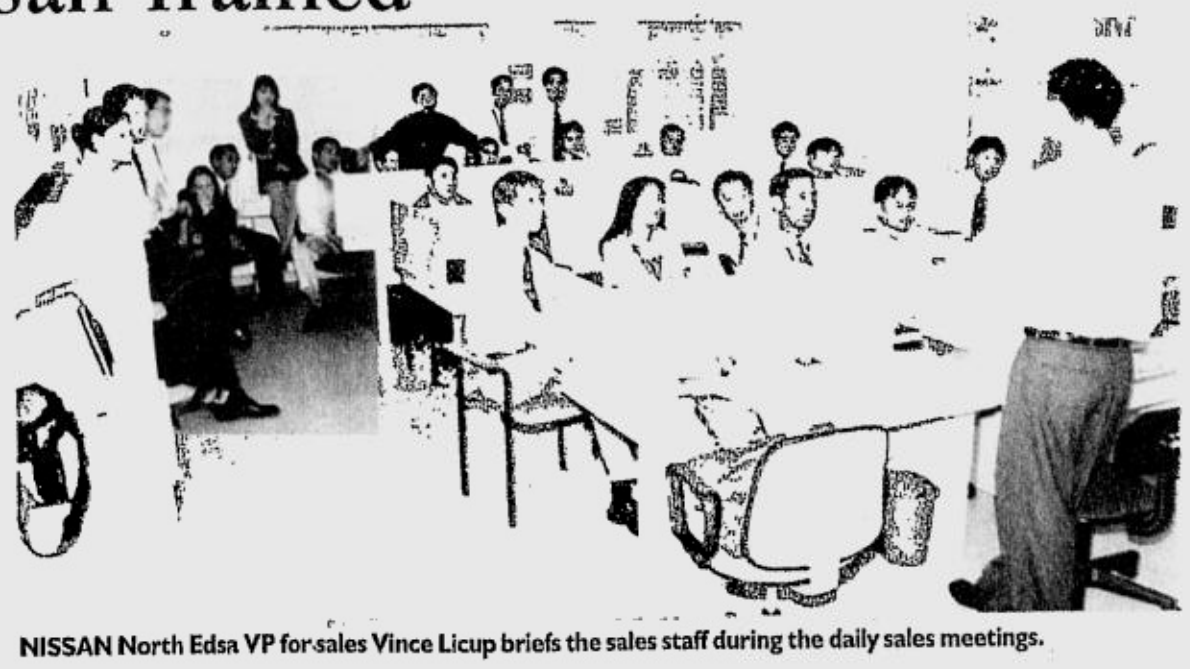
For best buys, good deals and top quality service , you can visit Nissan North Edsa Balintawak at 1174-1175 Edsa, Balintawak, Quezon City. The dealership is open daily, including Sundays, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

THE 800-sqm showroom allows for a grander perspective of NNE's complete lineup of NMPI and UMC vehicles

A 10,533-sqm landmark punctuates a solid, decade-long presence in northern Metro Manila

Sales: Aggressive, hospitable and Nissan Trained

SITUATED in a two-hectare land, NNE is considered to be one of the biggest car dealerships in the Philippines, blessed with the most spacious and impressive showroom which displays a wide array of car models. All Nissan Sales Professionals have been well trained, enabling them to deal professionally with our customers the Nissan Way. To make business relationships last, after-sales plays an important role in our sales force, it is a must to maintain constant communication to all of their customers after the sale.



NISSAN North Edsa VP for sales Vince Licup briefs the sales staff during the daily sales meetings.

AWARD-WINNING DEALER

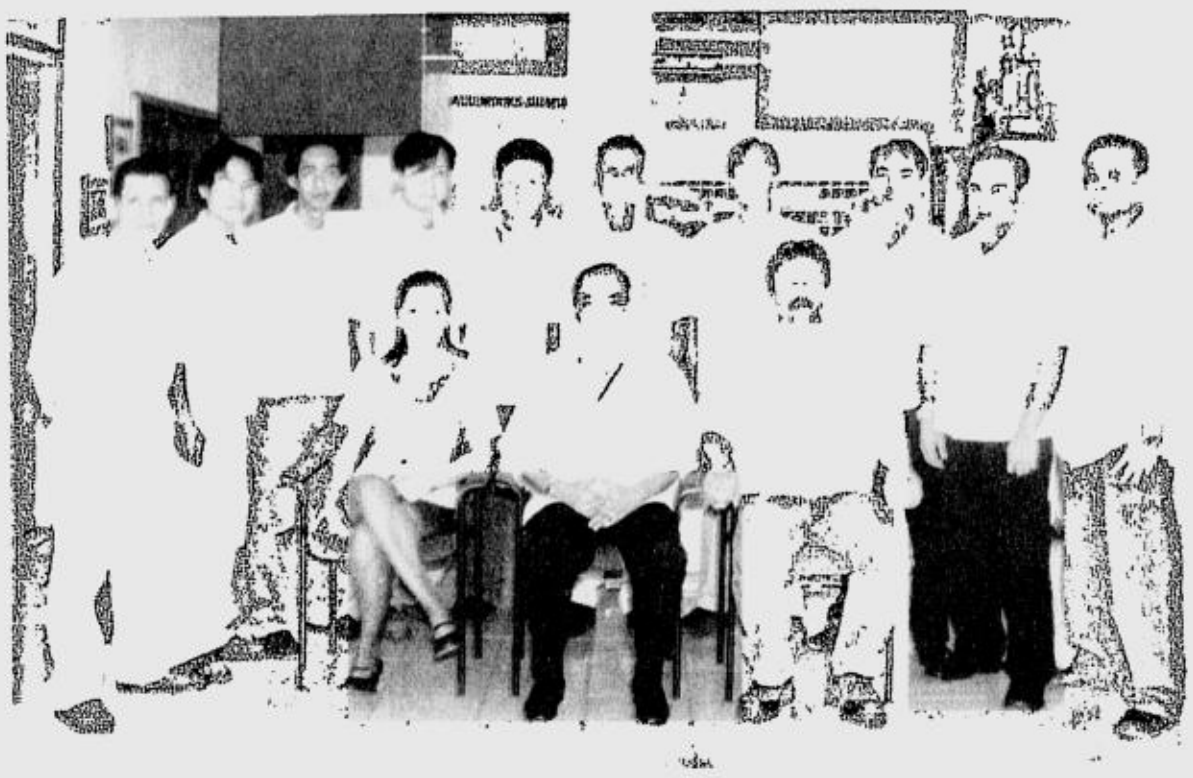
1994 UMC No.1 in Customer Satisfaction
1994 NMPI Best in Service Operation
1995 NMPI Dealer of the Year
1996 NMPI No.1 in Customer Satisfaction
1996 UMC Best in Parts Operation
1997 NMPI Best in Parts Operation
1997 UMC No.1 in Customer Satisfaction
1997 UMC Best in Service Operation
1997 UMC Dealer of the Year
1998 NMPI Best in Metro Manila Dealer in Customer Satisfaction
1999 UMC Best in 4x4 Sales
1999 NMPI Top Salesman of the Year
1999 NMPI-Univille Champion Nissan Int'l Service Technician Contest
2000 NMPI Best in Service Operation
2000 UMC Best in Service Operation
2000 NMPI Dealer of the Year
2000 UMC Dealer of the Year
2000 NMPI Top Salesman of the Year
2001 UMC Exemplary Performance on Full Size Wagon sales
2001 NMPI-Univille Champion Nissan Int'l. Service Technician Contest
2002 NMPI Top Salesman of the Year
2003 NMPI-Univille Champion Nissan Service Adviser Contest

Parts: Only Top Quality; nothing more , nothing less

CUSTOMERS having their cars serviced at NNE can leave the dealership feeling confident about their car's performance. Customers can heave a sigh of relief knowing that they will be getting genuine Nissan parts. Nissan North Edsa supplies original Nissan car parts sourced directly from our manufacturing plant.

The parts department has recently boosted its stock inventory to possess a complete supply of stocks for its customers. Visitors shall not experience the hassle of searching for genuine Nissan parts. Genuine Nissan parts might cost a bit more than the usual, but one can definitely be sure that one can only get top quality.

PARTS department in action



PARTS Department

Customer Relations: genuine customer care

CUSTOMERS expect more than ever before: more quality, more features, more benefits, more variety, more flexibility, more value, the reason why at Nissan North Edsa our Customer Relations serves as the "Generalist Department", where customers go to have all their needs be met through the prompt and efficient Nissan way. We take customers complaints as if they were our *own* complaints. We make sure to take personal responsibility and provide genuine customer care on each complaint received. We use three Best Customer Service Ideas: (1) Hire the right people—Find and retain quality people; (2) Make service a core value—The best way to perpetuate a concern for excellence is to have excellence at the highest levels of management; (3) Solicit and use feedback—Knowing and understanding what's *important* to each type of customer is essential. Proper communication channels such as Customer Relations hotline 3305353, TXTGenie—software for restoration of all Mobile phone numbers of NNE Customers 0916-5994437, website www.mynissan.biz for all information and update on promos and latest car models, and customer database system for fast and accurate customer information for letters/card sending.

We take customers complaints as if they were our own complaints. We make sure to take personal responsibility and provide genuine customer care on each complaint received

Nissan North Edsa Balintawak: Profiles

Profile of Success

Established on March 26, 1993. Located at 1174 Edsa, Balintawak, Quezon City. NNE is an authorized dealer of Nissan Motor Philippines Inc. (NMPI) that offers Nissan Passenger Cars. NNE is also an authorized dealer of Universal Motors Corp. (UMC) that offers Nisan Light Commercial and Recreational Vehicles. It is situated on a 10,345 square-meter lot and features the most spacious showroom of 800 square meters.

NNE as a partner: your advantages

CUSTOMER SERVICE SHUTTLE

Need to be someplace else while your car is in our workshop? Then board our service shuttle and we'll take you there. It is conveniently available should your destination be within the 5-km radius from NNE.

24-HOUR TOWING SERVICE

We are there to lend a helping hand should you experience a sudden breakdown. Our towing facility is on call 24 hours everyday. It is offered free of charge within Metro Manila (P25 per km. will be charged for locations outside Metro Manila). Just call us at 330-5331 to 50 and we'll respond immediately to your distress call.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL

We still accept your units for repairs in the wee hours of the morning and even in the latest hours of the night. Rest assured we will prioritize your units for service the following morning.

SERVICE APPOINTMENTS

This system ensures automatic attendance to your car needs whenever you call us for service. We offer a 2-hour Periodic Maintenance Schedule Check-Up (PMS) for receiving and delivery of passenger cars.

- **Free carwash and vacuum for every car serviced.**
- We give attractive labor discount and a 30-day credit term.

Parts Department: complete, systematic and organized

- Assures of flawless parts arrangement and smooth parts operation, maintenance and provision of high-quality Nissan genuine parts and accessories.
- Also offers original car parts and accessories for other brands.

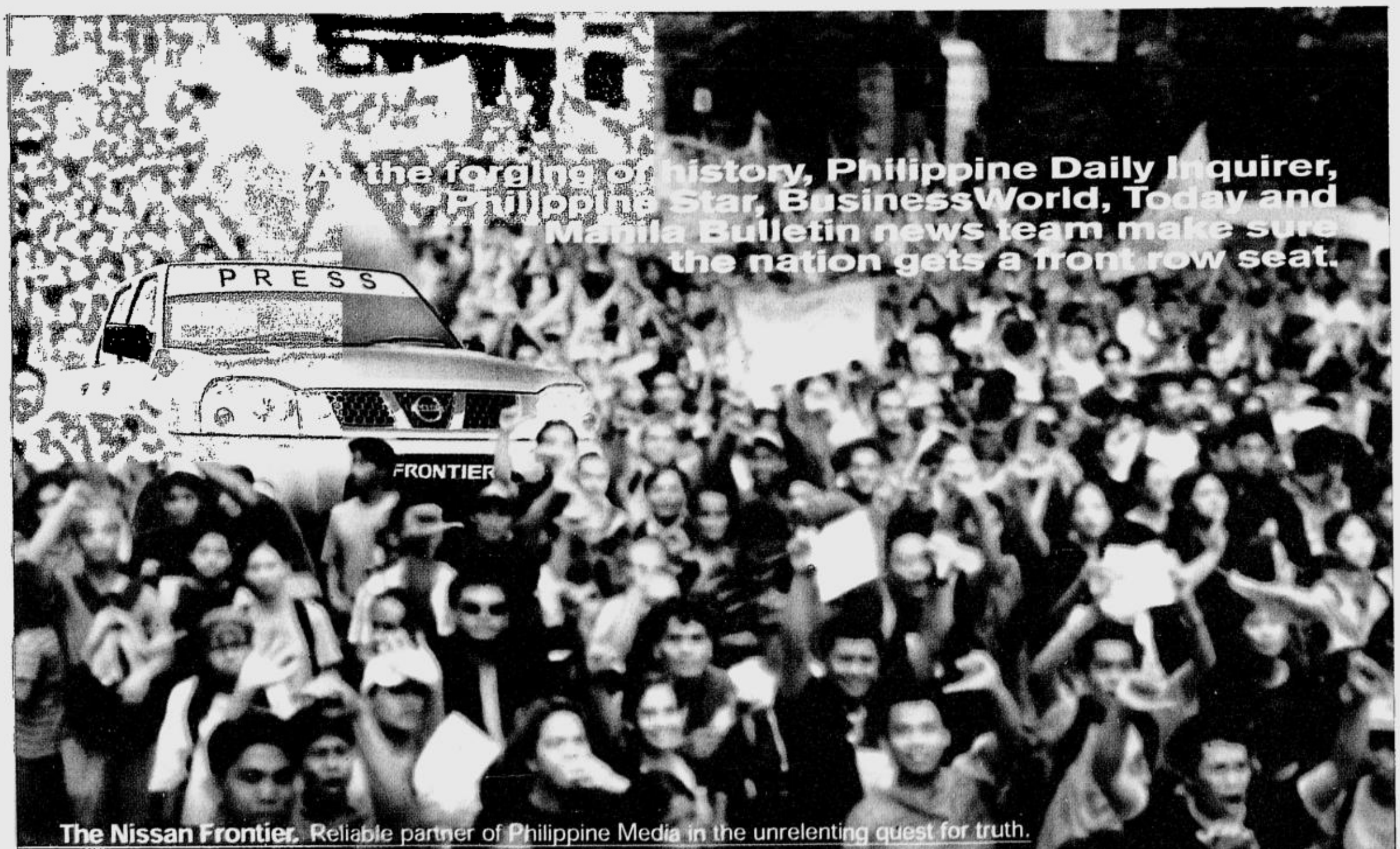
Service Workshop: We fix it right the first time

- Authorized Service Center of NMPI and UMC
- Delivers Prompt and quick service
- Has 42 work bays for mechanical jobs
- Has 28 work bays for body and paint jobs
- Fully equipped with the latest tools and equipment known in the automotive repair industry.
- Manned by professional technicians who are trained under the Nissan Service Technician Education Program (N-STEP).
- Open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Also specializes in other car brands
- Offers complete auto detailing and rustproofing.

Sales Department

- Authorized dealer of Nissan passenger cars, light commercial and recreational vehicles
- Manned with knowledgeable, approachable and friendly Nissan sales professionals.
- Spacious and impressive showroom, which displays different car models.

Chairman:	Robert Coyiuto Jr.
President and GM:	Miguel G. Coyiuto
VP for Operations:	Vincent: S. Licup
Comptroller:	Emmanuel Villadolid
Chief Accountant:	Elsa V. Inneg
Sr. Manager for Vehicle Sales:	Nanette G. Alonzo
Credit & Collection Manager:	Lolita T. Ong
Service Manager:	Boyet J. Bautista
CRD/Bus. Dev't. Manager:	Prisca Jose-Valencia
Parts Manager:	Francisco T. Yambao
Personnel/Training Head:	Grace M. Manansala
Sales Manager:	Edwin B. Barrios
Sales Manager:	Michelle G. Soller
Sales Manager:	Arvic M. Salcedo
Sales Manager:	Celestino L. Mendoza



FRONTIER

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www.mynissan.com.ph

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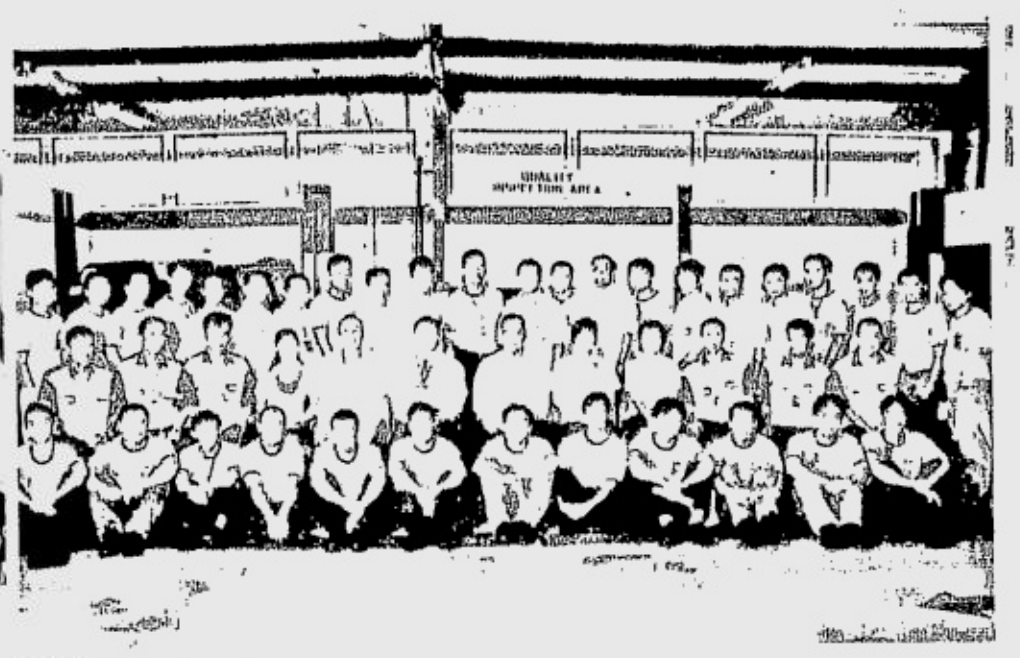
3 YEAR WARRANTY

Service: quality and satisfaction

"TOGETHER we move forward, Alone we go nowhere." With NNE's credo, every employee is encouraged to work as a *team*, that each member contributes to the success that this dealership has achieved for the past 10 years. The service department remains consistent in providing excellent and efficient service. Service technicians who have undergone extensive training (Nistec) perform tasks faster without compromising quality. Service advisers who are always ready and alert, from setting an appointment down to after service follow-up and other customers queries/service concerns. In the question of capacity, NNE's service workshop can accommodate 80 to 100 cars daily. The Service department constantly holds refresher courses to keep the team members focused and competent at all times. Service appointments, Early Bird Special, 24-hr Towing, Service Shuttle, Car Clinics, Pick up and Delivery service are only few of the many value-added services that Nissan North Edsa can offer to all of its customers.

GETTING it right the first time rules NNE's service department, giving it one of the highest customer satisfaction indexes in the industry



SERVICE department

NNE wishes to acknowledge:

CAR-REFINISHES

CARRYBOY™ The Name of Quality and Design. GENUINE ACCESSORIES
Options for your PICK-UPS

OPTIONS unlimited

STANDARD INSURANCE CO., INC.

What Drives You CALTEX

PPG

VALUGARD ROADREADY

Prudential Guarantee

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK

NISSAN

S3

Super SENTRA Spree

Sub-Zero Interest!

18 months 50% D/P for all models!

Low Monthly!

Model	Promo Monthly Payment	Total Savings
GX M/T	*5,999*	65,220
GX A/T	6,250	76,980
DS 1.5 M/T	6,999	68,760
DS 1.5 A/T	7,250	76,680
LS M/T	7,500	93,120
Superio A/T	7,999	101,460
Grandeur	8,999	95,100

* Based on 50% D/P, 60-month term; regular vs. promo monthly payments

From October 1 to 31 only. It's Nissan's last quarter storm! Don't miss our greatest and best rates ever! Drive home the S-mile of your choice at truly unbelievable values today! Visit a Nissan dealer NOW!

Low Down!

Starts at P 75,000 for GX 1.3 M/T (20% D/P)

All plans subject to bank approval. See flyers for complete details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4284, series of 2003

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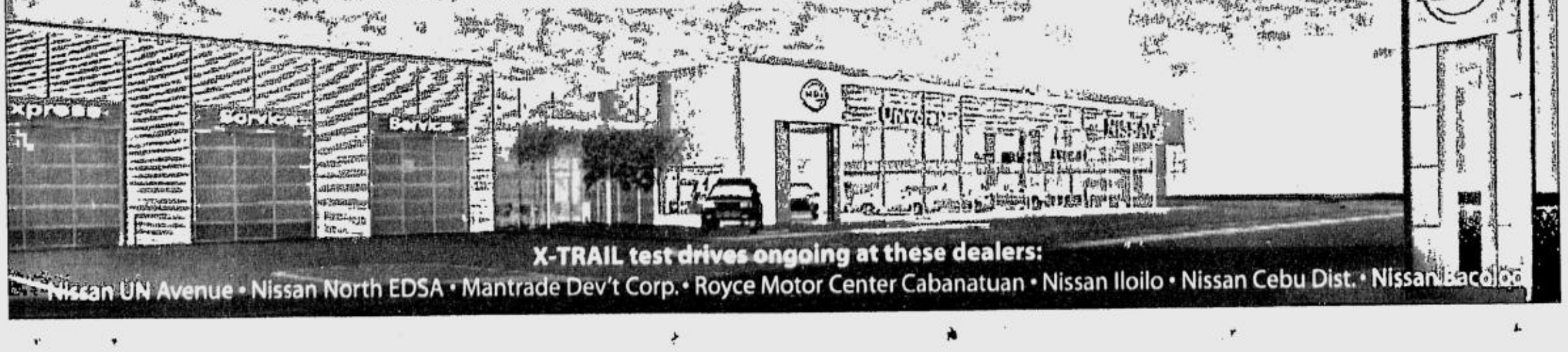
OctoberBEST!

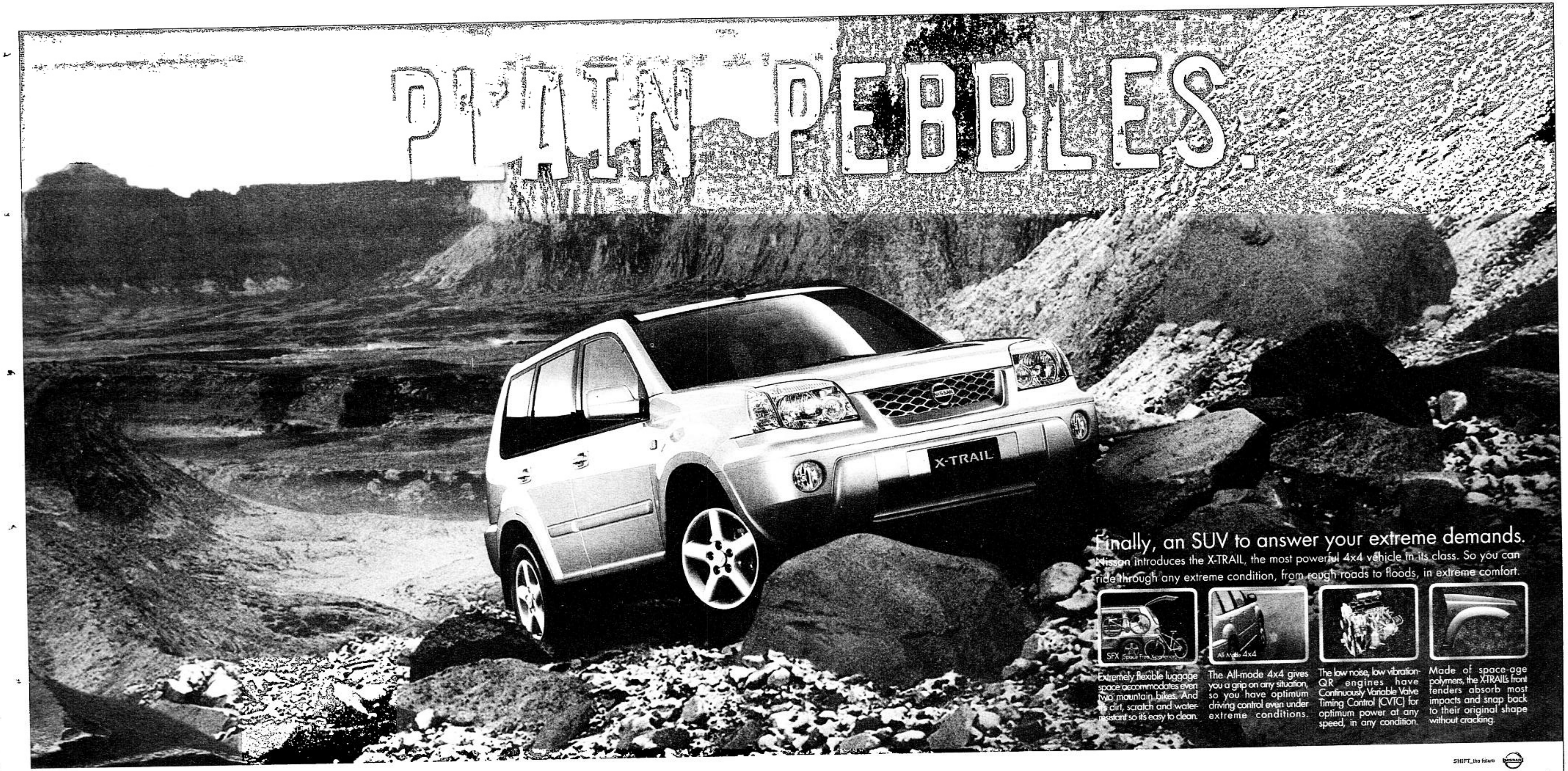
Big things will happen at your Nissan dealer only on October 18 & 19. Be there from dawn to dusk!



X-TRAIL test drives ongoing at these dealers:

Nissan UN Avenue • Nissan North EDSA • Mantrade Dev't Corp. • Royce Motor Center Cabanatuan • Nissan Iloilo • Nissan Cebu Dist. • Nissan Bacolod

PLAIN PEBBLES.



Finally, an SUV to answer your extreme demands.

Nissan introduces the X-TRAIL, the most powerful 4x4 vehicle in its class. So you can ride through any extreme condition, from rough roads to floods, in extreme comfort.

Extremely flexible luggage space accommodates even two mountain bikes. And dirt, scratch and water-resistant so it's easy to clean.

The All-mode 4x4 gives you a grip on any situation, so you have optimum driving control even under extreme conditions.

The low noise, low vibration QR engines have Continuously Variable Valve Timing Control (CVTC) for optimum power at any speed, in any condition.

Made of space-age polymers, the X-TRAIL's front fenders absorb most impacts and snap back to their original shape without cracking.

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X-TRAIL

THREE YEARS OR 100,000 KILOMETERS WARRANTY*

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ROYCE MOTOR CENTER Km. 112 Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City
Tel. Nos. (044) 463-7210 to 12, 463-3338

(SANTIAGO CITY) Maharlika Highway, Mabini, Santiago City
Tel. Nos. (078) 682-6707
(BULACAN) DKR Highway, Baliwag, Bulacan
Tel. Nos. (044) 673-0225
(PAMPANGA) McArthur Highway, Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga Tel Nos.: (045) 961-7773 to 74
WORLD CARS Km. 48 DKR Highway, Baliwag, Bulacan
Tel. Nos. (044) 766-0919, 766-2425, 766-2486
(CABANATUAN) Km. 114 Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City
Tel. Nos.: (044) 463-0089, 463-7279

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Tel. No. (078) 682-8850
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Tel. Nos.: (034) 435-1102, 434-8051 to 52
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